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Sentence

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----x

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

4 v.

15 Cr. 706 VSB

5 LAP SENG NG,

6 Defendant.

7 -----x

9 May 11, 2018
10:30 a.m.

12 Before:

13 HON. VERNON S. BRODERICK,

14 District Judge

15
16 APPEARANCES

18 GEOFFREY S. BERMAN,

United States Attorney for the
19 Southern District of New York

20 JANIS ECHENBERG,

DOUGLAS ZOLKIND,

21 DANIEL CHARLES RICHENTHAL,

Assistant United States Attorneys

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APPEARANCES (Continued)

KIRLAND & ELLIS, LLP,
Attorneys for defendant Ng
BY: ANDREW M. GENSER, Esq.
CHENG ZHANG, Esq.
ERIN MURPHY, Esq.
Of counsel

Also Present:

DAVID A. LAST, DOJ, CRIMINAL DIV., FRAUD SECTION
JEAN YAP, CANTONESE INTERPRETER
KWOK KEI NG, CANTONESE INTERPRETER
FRANCISCO OLIVERO, Observer, Interpreter's Office

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1 (In open court)

2 (Case called)

3 THE COURT: Thank you. You may be seated.

4 So we're here today for sentencing. Mr. Ng, can you
5 hear and understanding the interpreter?

6 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, yes.

7 THE COURT: If at any point in time you have
8 difficulty hearing or if you don't understand something I say,
9 or if you want to speak with your attorneys, just let me know
10 and we'll stop the proceedings and I'll allow you to do that,
11 okay? Also the interpreters have to speak up so the Court
12 Reporter can hear.

13 THE INTERPRETER: He did say okay in English.

14 THE COURT: Thank you. So as an initial matter, I
15 want to review for the parties the materials I've received and
16 reviewed in connection with today's sentencing.

17 Specifically, I have received the presentence
18 investigation report which was initially prepared on October
19 27th, 2017 and revised on February 26th, 2018, which includes a
20 recommendation.

21 I also have received the defendant's sentencing
22 submission which is dated March 2nd, 2018, which has
23 approximately 60 attachments that include letters from Mr. Ng's
24 family members, friends throughout his life, business
25 colleagues, employees, former employees, recipients of

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1 charitable gifts, various photographs, a list of Mr. Ng's
2 charitable donations totaling approximately I think \$22 million
3 over the course of several years, and Defense Exhibit 60, which
4 is a letter from Nu Beng Cao.

5 I also have a letter which I believe -- I think I
6 circulated to the parties yesterday from Lin Chu Sung, Lin Chu
7 Sung who is a friend of over 40 years. That letter has
8 approximately 19 attachments, the majority of which appear to
9 be in different language. However, there are portions of those
10 attachments that where there is a translation that appears in
11 those documents.

12 There are various articles, I think some official
13 documents, but things of that nature. I also have a letter
14 from Dr. Steven Weiss, which is dated October 27th, 2017, who
15 is another acquaintance and friend of Mr. Ng's.

16 I have the defendant's supplemental letter, dated
17 April 19th, which objects to the government's forfeiture
18 request. I think that may be resolved, but we'll talk about
19 later. It objects to the government's request for remand and
20 reserving the right to seek bail pending appeal and objecting
21 to various arguments and factual assertions made by the
22 government in sentencing submission and, finally, in
23 principally attaching the affidavit of Joel Ziegler, who is an
24 expert, who proffers to be an expert in prison conditions and
25 designations.

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1 I also have the government's sentencing submission
2 which is dated March 30th, 2018, which includes various
3 attachments. Those are certain of government exhibits that
4 were presented to the jury during the trial and were admitted
5 in evidence during the trial as well as I think at least two
6 summary exhibits. I also have the government's April 27th,
7 2018 supplemental letter addressing the affidavit of Joel
8 Ziegler.

9 In addition, I've got various documents relating to,
10 first, immigration, I think documents that support and relate
11 to a proposed order relating to a judicial order of removal,
12 and I also have a restitution order as well as I believe a
13 forfeiture-related order that the parties have agreed to.

14 I think I was recently handed certain of those
15 documents which have been executed. So have the parties
16 received each of the submissions and have they been filed on
17 ECF? Let me hear from the government?

18 MS. ECHENBERG: Yes, your Honor, we received all of
19 those documents that you referenced, some of which we have
20 provided to the court. I would note that the two letters that
21 your Honor circulated by email, I don't believe those have been
22 filed on Pacer, so I don't know if the court will do that or
23 you like us to do that.

24 THE COURT: We were going to. I asked my Deputy Clerk
25 to hold off until we had this proceeding to make sure there

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1 wasn't anything in there that either party thought should be
2 redacted, but my Deputy Clerk will take care of filing that if
3 there is no objection, filing those two documents.

4 MS. ECHENBERG: Yes, there is nothing the government
5 is aware that needs to be redacted.

6 We'll hear from the defense on the removal order,
7 forfeiture order and the restitution order. Those were all
8 provided in draft to the court, and we have now, as you noted,
9 provided copies that the parties have signed the forfeiture
10 order, a copy of the removal order that the defense has signed,
11 and then just a clean copy of the restitution order for the
12 court's signature. None of those have been filed on Pacer. We
13 thought they would be filed by the court after they were
14 executed.

15 THE COURT: That's correct. We'll take care of once
16 they're executed, having those filed on the docket. Thank you.

17 Mr. Genser, first with regard to all of those
18 documents, have you received each of those documents and if you
19 could just let me know whether there is an objection to the
20 filing of the two letters that I forwarded to the parties
21 yesterday?

22 MR. GENSER: Yes, we have received all of those
23 documents, your Honor, and we have no objection to the filing
24 of the two letters that went directly to the court.

25 THE COURT: Okay. We'll take care of them. My Deputy

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1 Clerk will take care of filing those two letters as well as the
2 attachments to the one letter that I mentioned. Mr. Genser,
3 have you received and read the presentence -- let me ask.
4 Sorry. Are there any other submissions that I should have in
5 connection with today's sentencing?

6 MS. ECHENBERG: Nothing the government is aware of.

7 THE COURT: Mr. Genser?

8 MR. GENSER: I am not sure if your Honor referenced
9 it, but there was an email from the court to the government
10 Thursday evening, 5:09 pm. That probably ought to be noted,
11 but we have received a copy of it as well.

12 THE COURT: I apologize. I did receive an email in
13 response to my order I think of May 9th, asking certain
14 questions, asking about certain documents. The government
15 provided responses to certain of those questions, and we'll go
16 over their responses in a moment.

17 MS. ECHENBERG: What we had noted in the email, we
18 tended to make the same representations on the record, so we
19 can do that, but we have no objection to the email being filed
20 on Pacer if your Honor thinks it is probably --

21 THE COURT: We'll probably do both. We'll file the
22 email with the attachments on the docket and we'll discuss
23 later on my order and the responses.

24 Some of the responses, just to give you a sense of how
25 I intend to handle it, I will ask you specifically about before

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1 I ask for your comments related to sentencing. Others I will
2 just say you can refer those as you make your specific comments
3 to me with regard to sentencing here.

4 So, Mr. Genser, have you read the presentence report
5 and discussed it with Mr. Ng?

6 MR. GENSER: Yes, your Honor, we have.

7 THE COURT: Mr. Ng, have you read the presentence
8 report or has it been read to you?

9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

10 THE COURT: Have you discussed it with your attorneys?

11 THE DEFENDANT: Discussed.

12 THE COURT: Have you had an opportunity to go over any
13 errors in the report with them or anything else that you feel
14 should be taken up with me?

15 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, all of them with my attorney.

16 THE COURT: Mr. Genser, I note in the defense
17 submission you've objected to the PSR, to the extent that it
18 relies on the complaint filed in this action and also more
19 generally I think to the facts that characterize the payments
20 to Ambassador Ashe and Mr. Lorenzo as bribes, essentially
21 challenging, at least in part challenging and preserving the
22 argument that Mr. Ng is innocent.

23 So let me ask this. And, in addition, raises the
24 issue of the PSR's reference to certain other defendants who
25 were involved in other aspects of their deals with Mr. Ashe and

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1 Mr. Lorenzo, specifically defendants Peow and Yan.

2 While I don't believe there is any objection -- well,
3 I will find out from the government. With regard to those
4 references where Mr. Ng was not involved, obviously I am not
5 specifically relying on those in connection with determining
6 what an appropriate sentence is here today, and I take the
7 Probation Department was merely providing the total picture of
8 this entire case which included those defendants.

9 So putting to the side for the moment the objections,
10 specific objections to the guideline calculation, I guess the
11 question I have is are there -- and also the, in essence, the
12 overall objection to facts that are characterized, the payments
13 as bribes and things that would be characterized as going to
14 the jury's determination of guilt, do you have any specific
15 objections to the specific paragraphs?

16 In other words, are there inaccuracies in those
17 paragraphs? I think certain of them you pointed out, which is
18 one the defense position wasn't that certain funds of the
19 \$200,000 were utilized to pay for travel expenses. You
20 indicated that that was not part of your argument. Are there
21 objections to specific paragraphs that we should deal with
22 today and I should resolve so that where everyone is in
23 agreement with regard to the allegations in the presentence
24 report?

25 MR. GENSER: Yes. Thank your Honor. We noted a few

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1 in our sentencing submission, one of which your Honor just
2 referred to. The other one was to Paragraph 48 of the PSR. It
3 is referenced on Page 34 of our memorandum, Footnote 50, and it
4 is just related to the characterization of our position on the
5 payments to Terra Trading.

6 THE INTERPRETER: Counsel, the interpreter requests
7 counsel repeats the last sentence.

8 MR. GENSER: It relates to the characterization of the
9 defense position about the payments to Terra Trading, and so
10 that is noted in our submission.

11 The report, the presentence report, states that
12 defense counsel contends that Terra Trading payments were not
13 monthly, but irregular since some of the payments were for
14 legitimate purposes. What we noted in our submission is that
15 that's not correct. Our position was that all of those
16 payments, from Mr. Ng's perspective, were legitimate and were
17 for the purpose of lobbying in and other legitimate activities
18 like brochures to build support for the center. That was the
19 only other clarification that I don't think your Honor had
20 mentioned.

21 In addition, there is one other, not a matter or
22 thing, a small inaccuracy on Page 41. In the addendum to the
23 presentence report there is a suggestion I think towards the
24 bottom of the page that Cao Yanchia, otherwise known as Forest
25 Cao, was a witness who testified at Mr. Ng's trial. As the

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1 court knows, that is not accurate.

2 THE COURT: Sorry. Where exactly is that?

3 MR. GENSER: It is the second to last sentence on Page
4 41.

5 THE COURT: Who testified, yes. So I would
6 characterize at least the last one as factual inaccuracy. I
7 will either make a notation on the presentence report itself or
8 more likely indicate in the judgment that that is inaccurate.

9 With regard to the representations of defense counsel,
10 I think the record is clear what the defense position is. I
11 won't make those changes to the presentence report, but I
12 recognize both of those changes, that the defense's position is
13 other than what is stated in the presentence report. Again
14 those are arguments and not factual assertions, although
15 they're based on factual assertions.

16 Is there anything else?

17 MR. GENSER: Just two other items, your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Yes.

19 MR. GENSER: One I am not sure if it is intended to be
20 a factual assertion or not. It is part of the presentence
21 report recommendation on Page 45. There is an assertion, I can
22 help your Honor find it, there is an assertion Mr. Ng
23 rationalized his conduct as somewhat commonplace at the UN. I
24 am not sure if that was intended as a factual assertion or more
25 supposition or explanation of the Probation Office's reasoning.

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1 To the extent it is suggested as a factual assertion,
2 we object to that. We don't think there is any evidence that
3 Mr. Ng has ever taken the position that his conduct was bribery
4 or that he's rationalized it in a particular way. We just note
5 that as an objection to the extent it is considered a factual
6 assertion.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Also just so the record is clear,
8 my understanding is that Mr. Ng did not have substantive
9 conversations in his presentence investigation interview
10 related to the charges in this case.

11 MR. GENSER: That's correct, your Honor. We were
12 present for that.

13 The other final point is more a matter of form. While
14 we're very appreciative the Probation Office recognized a
15 downward variance is warranted, we do object to the sentencing
16 recommendation of 72 months as being too harsh in light of the
17 circumstances, and we'll discuss this.

18 THE COURT: Yes, yes, and I recognize that, okay?
19 Thank you. Ms. Echenberg, does the government have any
20 objections to the report?

21 MS. ECHENBERG: Nothing more than the back-and-forth
22 that we already had with Probation which is noted in the
23 report.

24 THE COURT: Thank you. So as an initial matter, I
25 find there is nothing improper about the Probation Department

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1 relying on the criminal complaint filed in this action, among
2 other things, as support for the offense conduct section. I
3 presided over the trial in this matter and I am completely
4 familiar with the facts of this case as well as the exhibits
5 that were offered and admitted in evidence.

6 The issue is whether or not the information in the
7 presentence report is accurate, and so we've discussed those
8 that the defense believes are inaccurate and I'll make the
9 appropriate notations in the judgment to deal with that.

10 So with that in mind, I adopt the factual findings in
11 the report. Obviously, I think I made this clear, but to the
12 extent I did not, to the extent the arguments made by the
13 defense implicate the facts, obviously you preserved your
14 arguments with regard to those in connection with your
15 sentencing submission.

16 Now, however, just to be clear, and I may discuss this
17 a little bit later on as I discuss some of the submissions that
18 I have received in this case for sentencing. I adhere to my
19 findings with regard to the defendant's post-verdict motions
20 for acquittal and my ruling earlier this week with regard to
21 the defendant's motion for a new trial, although I recognize
22 that there are obviously going to be various issues or may be
23 various issues raised in this case on appeal, based upon my
24 presiding over Mr. Ng's trial and the jury reached a reasonable
25 and just verdict based upon the evidence presented.

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1 Now, the presentence report will be made part of the
2 record in this matter and placed under seal. If an appeal is
3 taken, counsel on the appeal may have access to the sealed
4 report without further application to me or one of my
5 colleagues.

6 Now, Mr. Ng, the law requires as part of determining
7 what an appropriate sentence is for you that I reference a set
8 of rules known as the sentencing guidelines. The guidelines
9 are a set of rules that are published by the Sentencing
10 Commission, and they're designed to assist judges like myself
11 when we impose sentences on people convicted of crimes.

12 Now, although at a certain point in time the
13 guidelines were mandatory, which would have meant I would have
14 been required to follow them in almost every instance, however,
15 they're no longer binding. I am still, however, required to
16 consider them as one factor, among others, in determining what
17 an appropriate sentence is for you.

18 In a sense, the guidelines are a starting point for my
19 making that determination. So my first task is to determine
20 what the sentencing range is under the guidelines, but before I
21 outline my calculations and finalize them with regard to the
22 guideline range, I'd like to discuss the various objections
23 that have been made to the guideline calculation by the
24 defense.

25 Now, specifically by my estimation, the defense

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1 objects in several ways to the calculation:

2 First, to the value that is placed on the bribes, the
3 enhancement for there being multiple bribes, the enhancement
4 because the offense involved an elected public official or any
5 public official in high level decision-making or a sensitive
6 position, and to the role adjustment.

7 Let me ask Mr. Genser, are those the specific
8 guideline calculation objections? Have I left anything out is
9 my question?

10 MR. GENSER: I think you have got them all, your
11 Honor.

12 THE COURT: Let's discuss each in turn.

13 So, Mr. Genser, do you have anything to add to the
14 defense submission concerning the value of the bribes?

15 MR. GENSER: No, your Honor. We stated our position
16 fully in our papers.

17 THE COURT: Does the government have anything to add
18 to its submission with regard to the value of the bribes?

19 MS. ECHENBERG: Your Honor, I will just briefly
20 address it.

21 THE COURT: Sure.

22 MS. ECHENBERG: I think the important thing to keep in
23 mind with regard to the bribe amount is that there are a number
24 of different ways to calculate it in which the bribe amount is
25 easily above the 550,000. So we have broken it into four

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1 different categories, and I'll just briefly cover those
2 categories.

3 The first is the evidence of the payments from Mr. Ng
4 directly to Mr. Lorenzo through Terra Trading, and that total
5 is \$350,000, and there was ample -- the number I have. Do you
6 have a different number?

7 THE COURT: No. In Government Exhibit 1501 and 1502?

8 MS. ECHENBERG: I am talking about the wires that
9 went -- there are other payments to Terra Trading, and that
10 might be why your Honor is focused on that makes the number
11 higher, but the wires that came directly from either Mr. Ng or
12 his company. I can give you the dates on those, your Honor.
13 Those are on February 5th, 2013, May 19th, 2014, September
14 23rd, 2014, and February 18th, 2015.

15 THE COURT: So you're excluding the March 24 and March
16 26th of 2014?

17 MS. ECHENBERG: We are not, to be clear, we are not
18 excluding it. Let me start with the payments to Mr. Lorenzo
19 that were purportedly for his work at --

20 THE COURT: Yes.

21 MS. ECHENBERG: Mr. Leung's testimony that at least
22 part of what he was paid for, was to promote the UN support for
23 the Macau Center. We argue at least a portion of those
24 payments were bribe payments, but even if you were to set those
25 aside, there are three additional categories that we think are

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1 very clearly bribe payments.

2 So you have the South South News payments, right, and
3 those came in a number of forms. Those were paid to Mr. Leung
4 to pay his rent. Those were paid to Mr. Leung through his
5 brothers and sisters, and in some in instances those were paid
6 through Terra Trading. That is one category.

7 The second category is the agreement that Mr. Leung
8 and Mr. Ng make that Mr. Ng will pay even more money, \$30,000 a
9 month on top of that South News salary for Mr. Leung's even
10 more specific focus on the UN center. That is the categories I
11 am talking about now that is over \$300,000 of additional
12 payments. So you have that category.

13 There was ample evidence of Mr. Leung's testimony, the
14 sham contract, the timing of those payments which I can review,
15 but I think your Honor knows the facts well that that shows
16 were clearly bribe payments. You have the no-show job, which
17 we think is another category we believe is clearly bribe
18 payments. That is another \$327,000. Then you have the
19 \$200,000 payment to --

20 THE COURT: I am sorry. Are you saying that Ms.
21 Cherian was paid \$327,000?

22 MS. ECHENBERG: Yes, and that is reflected on
23 Government Exhibit 1502. Then we have \$200,000 to the Ashe PGA
24 account.

25 THE COURT: I thought the consulting payments were

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1 32,500 or something like that.

2 MS. ECHENBERG: Let me just look at the exhibit.

3 (Pause)

4 MS. ECHENBERG: I apologize. I was conflating two
5 things. The \$325,000 is Ms. Cherian's salary and the \$200,000
6 payment to the Ashe PGA. That together is well over the
7 550,000 number that we need to meet, again not even including
8 the South South News salary which we think at least in part
9 there was testimony that that was at least in part a bribe.
10 There was also testimony about another \$20,000 cash payment.
11 So we think it is easily above the \$550,000, and the Probation
12 Department agrees with that analysis.

13 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Genser, would you like to
14 respond in any way?

15 MR. GENSER: Yes, your Honor. We don't want to
16 relitigate the issues here. Your Honor presided over the
17 trial. Obviously, we have made arguments. Arguments were made
18 at trial none of those payments have been established to be
19 bribes.

20 Just with respect to briefly the argument that the
21 Terra Trading contract was a sham contract, I would like to
22 remind the court that the testimony was that Leung forged the
23 name on the contract. It was Mr. Ng's desire to have a
24 contract. Leung forged a name on the contract because he
25 didn't want to be bound by it. So the question it raises is if

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1 Mr. Ng wanted to have a contract to make sure that Leung was
2 going to have something he would be bound by and have to honor,
3 why would he also want it to be a sham contract?

4 There was no testimony Mr. Ng knew the contract that
5 Mr. Leung thought it was false. I also note there was evidence
6 at trial that the significant amount of those monies that went
7 to Terra Trading were used to pay for things like brochures and
8 marketing materials developed by Christian Batres to showcase
9 the idea of the Macau Conference Center. That is all part of
10 why we argue that the evidence doesn't establish that Mr. Ng
11 intended those to be contract payments.

12 THE COURT: Let me ask this, which relates to I guess
13 a little bit a question I had asked in my order. As a legal
14 matter, does it, in other words, does the law require that
15 payments that are bribes or that are argued to be bribes, that
16 they go to pay someone's personal expenses or go to pay some,
17 for some other illicit activity, or is it really whether or not
18 the payments themselves are in relation for, in this case,
19 whether you say official acts or for actions taken the person,
20 the bribed recipient is my question.

21 I understand the factual argument and the argument
22 that with regard to the payments, the argument that Mr. Ng had
23 that perception and that is what it was going to be used for.
24 I am talking about as a legal matter.

25 Whoever wants to --

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1 MR. GENSER: I am happy for the government address it
2 and we are happy to respond.

3 MS. ECHENBERG: Your Honor, I think we have addressed
4 this in our submission, but the critical issue is whether the
5 payments are designed to influence the official, and we think
6 the timing here makes that so clear.

7 For example, there is a \$60,000 payment to Terra
8 Trading on February 5th, 2013, and then Leung springs into
9 action, begins his discussions about revising the UN document
10 to include the Sun Kian improved almost immediately after these
11 discussions, and there are multiple examples of that set forth
12 at trial.

13 THE COURT: Mr. Genser.

14 MR. GENSER: Yes, your Honor. I think this point is
15 more applicable to the question of the \$200,000 payment to the
16 PGA account, which I think the trial record is clear there is a
17 lot of evidence that the way that was presented to Mr. Ng at
18 least was it was to help pay for a UN sponsored concert where
19 the original backer had backed out of it, and Mr. Ashe was
20 requesting a donation so the concert could go forward.

21 The concert did go forward and Mr. Leung testified
22 that he attended the concert. The precise question the court
23 is asking, can that legally, is it our position legally that
24 can't be a bribe because it went to a PGA account as opposed to
25 someone personal?

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1 I think we do have an argument, and it is rooted in
2 the statutory language. Section 666, which is the bribery
3 statute, applies to a bribe offered or paid to any person, and
4 the FCPA, that is Section 666 (a)(2), the FCPA applies only to
5 a bribe offered or paid to an official, foreign official,
6 political party official thereof, candidate, any person conduit
7 for the foregoing, and I can provide the statutory cite, the
8 FCPA statute, your Honor.

9 A donation to the office of the PGA is none of the
10 foregoing, and so we think basically under the plain language
11 of the statute, that payment can't qualify as a bribe. It is
12 just to a recipient who is recognized as being capable of a
13 bribe recipient under the statute.

14 Our second argument is the one your Honor referenced
15 is that it goes to the intent. To give a donation to a UN
16 office for a UN purpose speaks to the intent of Mr. Ng, which
17 was to do just what it was, just make a donation to help out
18 with the concert, and that was his intention.

19 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Thank you.

20 Now, I find there is ample evidence in the record,
21 including the testimony of Mr. Leung, the bank and other
22 financial records and emails to support the bribe payments to
23 Ashe and Leung from defendant Ng and affiliated entities,
24 between 550,000 and \$1.5 million, warranting the 14 level
25 increase. Those payments are summarized, as I think the

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1 government pointed out, in Government Exhibits 1501 and 1502.

2 Those bribes include, by way of example, the following
3 payments there are certain wire transfers and I think my
4 addition is a little different. If you look at the items that
5 are denominated wires from either Mr. Ng or the Sun Kian Group,
6 I calculated it a little more than what the government came
7 out. I calculated it as 370,000, but whether it is 370 or 350,
8 the records will bear that out.

9 In addition, those are the records I think that I had
10 for Mr. Ng, and again there is a reason why I became a lawyer
11 and not a scientist, I don't do math, but there is also a wire
12 from Sun Kian Group \$90,000 February 18th of 2015.

13 Then there is also the purported consulting payments
14 to John Ashe's wife which the defense had calculated as
15 approximately \$32,500.00. I find there is more than ample
16 evidence presented during the trial that defendant Ng was aware
17 of these payments, including in documents and conversations,
18 and that these payments were not for consulting services
19 provided by Mr. Ashe's wife.

20 Now, with regard to the \$200,000 payment to the bank
21 account or one of the bank accounts of John Ashe as President
22 of the General Assembly, or at least I think that may be the
23 notation, that may be the account name, I'm not entirely sure.
24 In any event, there was evidence in the record that Ashe
25 expressly said that he would not go to Macau and that Ng

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1 requested that the trip be an official visit, and there was
2 some testimony I think during the trial what that meant.

3 In any event, Ashe traveled to Macau with his chief
4 along with other UN officials, including Leung, in March of
5 2015 and that was before the \$200,000 was wired to one of
6 Ashe's accounts.

7 There is also evidence that this money was not only to
8 encourage or to get Mr. Ashe to travel to Macau for the
9 official visit, but was also used to compensate Ashe for
10 officials action, and again this is an inference from the
11 evidence that could be drawn from actions, official actions
12 already taken, like the official UN document and the revised UN
13 document, and to get Ashe to take other official actions on
14 behalf of Mr. Ng.

15 For example, on May 22nd, 2014, Leung sent an email to
16 Jeff Yin stating, "Jeff, see the bank account of the PGA
17 office. Try to send the wire as soon as possible, and when you
18 send it, let me know so that I can advise him. There are a lot
19 of things that we need to be done" -- excuse me -- "there are a
20 lot of things that need to be done. He want to know when Ng
21 will come here. I am working to get things we need."

22 Now, those things, and again either directly or
23 indirectly, the inference can be drawn that needed to be done
24 included, among other things, applying for Mr. Ashe to a
25 certain extent Mr. Leung to apply pressure or influence on

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1 Yiping Zhou, and obtaining a pro bono agreement, among other
2 things.

3 On June 1st of 2014, the \$200,000 was wired by South
4 South News to one of Mr. Ashe's PGA accounts. The evidence
5 presented at trial was sufficient to establish certainly by a
6 preponderance that the \$200,000 was, indeed, a bribe.

7 It is also a fair inference that after the October
8 2010 discussion that Leung testified he had with defendant Ng
9 about building a conference and meeting center in Macau and
10 need to obtain an official document from the UN, that Leung's
11 job certainly, in his mind -- and I think the facts bear this
12 out -- changed and he took actions in his capacity as an
13 ambassador to the UN to obtain the official documents because
14 he was being paid.

15 I think that is what he indicated. Therefore, from
16 that point on, at least a portion or all of it, I don't know as
17 a legal matter, when there is a change here, whether or not
18 there is a division; in other words, whether you would only
19 include a portion of the 20,000 or all of the 20,000.

20 What is clear is that Mr. Leung didn't decline to do
21 this as part of his job, and by "job," I mean actually
22 exercising his powers as an ambassador to ensure that official
23 actions were taken in connection with that. So I find
24 certainly at least a portion of that 20,000, if not all of it,
25 could be from that point on, that October 2010 time period, be

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1 considered a bribe to be used to influence both ambassador and
2 PGA President Ashe as well as other members of the UN regarding
3 the Macau Center and including to obtain official documents and
4 other things in connection with that.

5 However, even using the late 2012 date that the
6 defense argues was the first point at which Mr. Ng became
7 interested in pursuing a UN conference center in Macau, the
8 \$20,000 a month payments to Mr. Leung, at least by my
9 calculation, would amount to somewhere in excess of \$400,000
10 from that point forward to the conclusion, to the arrest of
11 Mr. Ng.

12 So I find there is more than ample evidence that
13 proves by a preponderance of the evidence that the value of the
14 bribes was at least \$550,000, but less than \$1.5 million, okay?

15 Let's next discuss the enhancement for multiple
16 bribes. Mr. Genser, do you have anything to add with regard to
17 the arguments that are made in your papers with regard to that
18 issue?

19 MR. GENSER: We don't, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Does the government wish to be heard with
21 regard to that issue?

22 MS. ECHENBERG: No, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: All right. I find that the evidence is
24 more than sufficient to establish by a preponderance of the
25 evidence that there was more than one bribe here. As an

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1 initial matter, and as the government points out, there were at
2 least the evidence shows two recipients of the bribes that the
3 jury could have found, Mr. Ashe and Mr. Leung.

4 That in and of itself means there are multiple bribe
5 payments and separate bribe payments. I'm not necessarily, in
6 making my comments, although I don't know whether as a legal
7 matter the payments that went as consulting payments to
8 Ambassador Ashe's wife, I don't know as a legal matter that
9 would count as payments to Mr. Ashe or whether as a legal
10 matter you could still under the guidelines count that as a
11 separate bribe.

12 In any event, I think based upon the separate payments
13 to Mr. Ashe and Mr. Leung, I find that the enhancement is
14 appropriate. In addition, there were multiple payments over
15 the years of the existence of the scheme, and they were done at
16 certain periods of time, and certain times they were done to,
17 in essence, spur activity, get activity done.

18 In fact, at least on one or more occasion the payments
19 were withheld so that to encourage, entice or what have you Mr.
20 Leung specifically to take action. In addition, I think it is
21 a fair inference from the evidence that certain payments were
22 made to Mr. Ashe to actually get him to make those payments,
23 and there were exchanges of emails from Mr. Ashe indicating
24 prior conversations with the defendant concerning promises to
25 support the PGA. I find that those payments also could be

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1 considered separate payments. So I think the enhancement is
2 entirely appropriate here.

3 Let's discuss the enhancement because the offense
4 involved an elected public official or any public official in
5 high, a high decision-making or sensitive position. Mr.
6 Genser, do you have anything to add to your papers with regard
7 to that issue?

8 MR. GENSER: We do not, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Does the government have anything to add?

10 MS. ECHENBERG: No, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: So with regard to here, too, with regard
12 to this enhancement, I find that the evidence was sufficient to
13 establish by a preponderance of the evidence that the offense
14 did involve an elected official, public official or public
15 official in a high decision-making, sensitive position. As an
16 initial matter, the application notes to this section of the
17 guidelines containing the definition of public official states
18 that public official shall be construed broadly.

19 Second, according to the application notes, the
20 definition of public official includes, among other things, "an
21 individual who: One, is in a position of public trust with
22 official responsibility for carrying out a government program
23 or policy; two, acts under color of law or official right; or,
24 three, participates so substantially in government operations
25 as to possess de facto authority to make governmental

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1 officials.

2 Then it is in parens, "e.g., which may include a
3 leader of a state or local political party who acts in the
4 manner described in this subdivision."

5 I think that the description there both taken together
6 are illustrative and not necessarily exclusive, but I also
7 point to the Second Circuit's decision in United States versus
8 Bahel, B A H E L, which indicated that the UN is a public
9 international organization, and 2C1.1 specifically was meant to
10 cover employees of the United Nations.

11 In that case, the Second Circuit also stated, "it is
12 difficult to imagine how the defendant there, Bahel, could not
13 be considered a high-ranking UN official since he was chief of
14 the commodity procurement section within the United Nations
15 procurement division. While this position may not have been
16 the same as that of a representative of a member state, in
17 other words, I would say an ambassador, it is far from being a
18 baggage porter to which Bahel now seeks to compare himself."

19 Now, the court goes on to state the guidelines
20 expressly refer to the sentencing of individuals at public
21 international organizations as appropriately considered in the
22 context of Part C. Again it goes on to state that Bahel's
23 position at the UN could also be referenced with his title,
24 which it describes as closer to that of a foreign diplomat,
25 political party official or tribal leader, all of which the

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1 court found in that case were covered expressly by the
2 guideline.

3 The court in Bahel also noted that Section 2C1.1 also
4 applies to offenses under the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act,
5 which generally involve the payment to public officials,
6 candidates or public office or agent or intermediary with an
7 intent to influence an official act or decision of a foreign
8 government or political party.

9 So based upon my review of 2C1.1, the holding in Bahel
10 and the application notes and commentary of that section of the
11 guidelines, both Ashe, as the elected president of the PGA and
12 ambassador, and Leung as an ambassador, both qualify as public
13 officials under 2C1.1, in that they are either elected public
14 officials or public officials in a high level decision-making
15 or sensitive position within the meaning of the guidelines.

16 Now let's now discuss the role enhancement for Mr. Ng
17 as an organizer or leader of the criminal activity that
18 involved five or more participants or was otherwise extensive.

19 Mr. Genser, do you have anything to add with regard to
20 that?

21 MR. GENSER: No, your Honor. We rely on our papers.

22 THE COURT: Does the government have anything to add?

23 MS. ECHENBERG: No, your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Now, here I find that the evidence was
25 more than sufficient to establish by a preponderance of the

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1 evidence that defendant Ng was an organizer or leader of
2 criminal activity that involved five or more participants or
3 was otherwise extensive.

4 First, as the government and Probation Department
5 state, there are at least five participants in the criminal
6 activity here. You have the defendant, you have Ashe, Leung,
7 Yin and Forest Cao.

8 Now, I know the defense points out that Forest Cao and
9 Mr. Ng pursued, had different interests at a certain point in
10 time. However, I believe that the government is correct, based
11 upon the testimony during the trial, that before Mr. Cao and
12 Mr. Ng had a falling out, the evidence supports a finding that
13 Mr. Cao started out working with Mr. Ng. Therefore, Mr. Cao
14 was clearly a participant within a meaning of the guidelines.

15 In fact, I think, to the extent -- and I believe this
16 is the case -- he was or could be described as a
17 co-conspirator, who I would continue to be co-conspirator under
18 the law because I don't believe there was any evidence he, in
19 fact, withdrew from in a legal sense. I believe the evidence
20 supports a finding that there are five or more participants.
21 However, in addition, I also find that the evidence supports
22 that Mr. Ng was a leader of criminal activity that was
23 otherwise extensive within the meaning of the guidelines.

24 The application notes for Section 3B1.2 provide that,
25 "in assessing whether an organization is otherwise extensive,

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1 all persons involved during the course of the entire offense
2 are to be considered. Thus, a fraud that involved only three
3 participants, but used the unknowing services of many
4 outsiders, could be considered extensive."

5 Now, here the criminal activity involved the unknown
6 services of numerous outsiders. By "outsiders," I mean -- and
7 the guidelines are consistent with this -- individuals who are
8 not participants, in other words, not considered participants
9 in the criminal activity. So here those included employees of
10 South South News, people employed by the UN OSSC and the United
11 Nations itself who provided unknowing assistance to the
12 criminal activity related to the Macau, the development of the
13 Macau Conference Center. Therefore, the application of a
14 four-level enhancement to the defendant's role as an
15 organizer-leader of criminal activity that involved five or
16 more participants or was otherwise extensive I find to be
17 warranted. So in light of these findings, I reject the
18 guideline calculation contained on Page 39 of the defense
19 submission.

20 Are there any other objections to the guideline
21 calculations contained in the presentence report, Mr. Genser?

22 MR. GENSER: No, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: From the government?

24 MS. ECHENBERG: No, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: All right. So the defense objections are

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1 obviously preserved with regard to any appeal in this matter.

2 Now I will down to the business of calculating Mr.
3 Ng's guideline range using the November 1st, 2016 guideline
4 manual. I do so in the following manner. The counts of
5 conviction are grouped together pursuant to 3D1.2 (d) since the
6 offense level is determined largely on the basis of the total
7 value of the funds laundering during the offense.

8 Pursuant to 3D1.3 (b), since the counts involved
9 offenses of the same general type to which different guidelines
10 apply, the offense guideline that produces the highest offense
11 level is applied. The guideline for Counts 5 and 6 under
12 Section 2S1.1 is applied here and since they produce the
13 highest level. The base offense level is determined with
14 reference to Section 2S1.1, which applies to a violation of
15 Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956 (h).

16 The offense level calculated from the underlying
17 offenses is utilized since the defendant committed the
18 underlying offenses, and the offense level for these offenses
19 can be determined, and this is again pursuant to 2S1.1(a)(1),
20 so the most appropriate guideline for the calculation for the
21 underlying offenses is 2C1.1.

22 Since Mr. Ng was not a public official pursuant to
23 2C1.1(a)(2), the base offense level is 12. Since the offense
24 involved more than one bribe, as I mentioned before and as I
25 found, a two-level increase is warranted. Since the bribes

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1 totaled more than \$550,000, but not more than \$1.5 million, a
2 14 level increase is warranted. Since the offense level
3 involved an elected public official or any public official in a
4 high level, decision-making or sensitive position, a four level
5 increase is also warranted. Also since Mr. Ng was convicted
6 under 18, United States Code, Section 1956, an additional
7 two-level increase is warranted.

8 Now, finally, because, as I found Mr. Ng was an
9 organizer, leader of criminal activity that involved five or
10 more participants or was otherwise extensive, a four level
11 increase is warranted. The resulting adjusted offense level is
12 38. Mr. Ng's criminal history category is I, resulting in a
13 guideline range of 235 to 293 months imprisonment.

14 Now, understanding there have been various objections,
15 do the parties agree that based upon the findings that I've
16 made, that Mr. Ng's guideline range is 235 to 293 months in
17 prison. The government?

18 MS. ECHENBERG: Yes, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: The defense?

20 MR. GENSER: Yes, your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Based upon the parties' agreement, in
22 other words, of course, with noting the objections that have
23 already been interposed and my independent evaluation of the
24 sentencing guidelines, I accept the guideline calculation in
25 the presentence report. I find that Mr. Ng's offense level is

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1 38, Criminal History Category I, and the recommended sentence;
2 therefore, is 235 to 293 months imprisonment. The supervised
3 release range is one to three years on each count, and the fine
4 range is \$25,000 to \$1 million.

5 Now, with regard to the applicability of any
6 departures, I note that in the defense submission there is a
7 request for a departure based at least upon Mr. Ng's age,
8 infirmities and status as a deportable alien.

9 I am to consider whether his age and status as an
10 alien warrants a departure. Understand the case law applicable
11 under the Second Circuit, a departure under these grounds is
12 not warranted under the facts and circumstances here.

13 In addition, I have also considered whether any other,
14 there are any other appropriate bases for departure from the
15 advisory range within the guideline system, and while
16 recognizing I do have the authority to depart, I do not find
17 any grounds warranting a departure under the guidelines.

18 However, I find and I recognize that I do have the
19 authority to consider Mr. Ng's age, infirmities, status as a
20 deportable alien and any other factors contained in 18 United
21 States Code Section 3553 (a) as a basis for a variance here.

22 Mr. Genser, in your submission on behalf of Mr. Ng,
23 you requested a sentence of time-served. The Probation
24 Department has indicated that a variance is appropriate here.
25 However, the Probation Department recommends a sentence of 72

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1 months imprisonment. The government also states a variance is
2 appropriate, in other words, but they recommend the sentence be
3 something that is greater than 72 months imprisonment.

4 Now, I do agree with the parties and the Probation
5 Department that a variance appears to be warranted in this
6 case, not the least of which I think it is fair to say that a
7 235 month sentence would effectively be the rest of Mr. Ng's
8 life, being that he is currently 69 years' old.

9 Now, the issue in the end is how much of a variance is
10 appropriate here. Before I hear the parties, let's talk about
11 the questions that I raised in my May 9th order. Now, I think
12 with regard to Item 1, I have the answer from the government
13 from their perspective concerning the pages of the presentence
14 report related to the donation issue, for lack of a better
15 term. Mr. Genser, were there any pages of that report that the
16 defense feels I should reference, understanding that the
17 defense may take the argument that I shouldn't consider the
18 report in any way, shape or form?

19 MR. GENSER: Yes, your Honor. Thank you.

20 That is correct, our position is that the court should
21 afford that report no weight, in that it is not relevant to the
22 sentencing here. If your Honor is going to consider it, we
23 would suggest that your Honor also consider the minority
24 report, noting that the Senate report that your Honor asked
25 about was a majority report. It is a partisan report.

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1 There was a minority report in Volume V, at Page 5273.
2 We'll note that on occasion it refers to Mr. Ng as Mr. Wu,
3 which is the Mandarin pronunciation, but the minority report
4 notes at that page that the evidence before the committee is
5 insufficient to establish the precise source of funds for many
6 of the 220,000 contributions related to the person who was
7 accused of making those contributions and that the committee
8 was also unable to obtain specific evidence on the role that
9 Mr. Ng may have played in particular contribution decisions.

10 THE COURT: Okay. I'll note for the record that what
11 I did was I went to the report on the internet, I searched for
12 S E N G throughout the report, both the majority report and the
13 minority report, and so I am going to consider both here. I
14 think for me the critical issue is I guess in part I think
15 there is sufficient information in there that by a
16 preponderance of the evidence that I can appropriately consider
17 that.

18 It is not so much the precise nature of the funds,
19 whether it was 200,000 or a hundred thousand, you know, or the
20 like. The fact that at the time that this all occurred, it
21 garnered substantial amount of press coverage and substantial
22 amount of activity by officials of this country, and while the
23 facts may be, the facts may be what they are, the issue in part
24 I'm considering is the impact the knowledge of that would have
25 on the defendant and his activities as it relates to the future

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1 and specifically with regard to any issues relating to
2 deterrence, specific deterrence is here.

3 So I understand the arguments being made. Let me ask
4 you, with regard to Item 2, the government directly in their
5 opposition memorandum in connection with the pretrial motions
6 in limine, I have reviewed that already. The question I had,
7 was there any other information related to the representative
8 that the government would point me to?

9 I think based upon the email I received, I think the
10 answer to that is no, but let me hear from the government with
11 regard to that.

12 MS. ECHENBERG: That's right, your Honor, there is not
13 another specific document. To the extent we end up arguing
14 more about the facts, we may want to respond with additional
15 information, but there is nothing we would point the court to
16 at this time.

17 THE COURT: Mr. Genser.

18 MR. GENSER: Yes, your Honor. We have one document
19 that we would like to submit if the court is going to consider
20 that uncharged conduct or that set of conduct. It is something
21 that was produced to us in discovery by the government. It has
22 a Bates stamp on it 000302503. It is not redacted right now,
23 and I know we haven't been identifying some of the participants
24 in this set of conduct, so perhaps after this hearing we can
25 deal with whether it gets filed in a redacted form.

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1 It is some emails that we think made clear that the
2 defendant was a benefactor to the family of the representative
3 who were in dire financial straights following the
4 representative's conviction and that he was basically helping
5 them financially so they could stay in their home. That is
6 reflected in this set of emails.

7 THE COURT: All right. If there is a request to
8 redact the specific names that are mentioned in there -- why
9 don't you hand it up. Had you provided a copy of that to the
10 government?

11 MR. GENSER: Yes.

12 MS. ECHENBERG: Yes.

13 THE COURT: I ask the parties to meet-and-confer with
14 regard to that. With regard to this issue, it is a work in
15 progress. I haven't made an ultimate decision. I am likely to
16 reference it, the issues.

17 I think in looking at this, it does appear that
18 certain of the names, I would agree, probably should be
19 redacted. I will leave it to the parties to meet-and-confer
20 about that and present me with a redacted form, and then I'll
21 rule on whether or not I believe the redactions are appropriate
22 because I do believe it should be made part of the record.

23 Now, with regard to Item 3, I will ask the parties in
24 your comments to me to address those. Similarly, I ask with
25 regard to Item 4 for you to do the same.

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1 With regard to Item 10, I don't know whether there was
2 evidence -- excuse me -- Item 5 -- I don't know whether there
3 was evidence in the record concerning the reference in
4 Paragraph 58 of the presentence report concerning the travel
5 expenses or not, but let me first hear from the government
6 whether or not there was evidence in the record as to who or
7 what entity paid for those travel expenses.

8 MS. ECHENBERG: It is our understanding that the trip
9 that Ambassador Ashe took was the trip he took to Macau, was
10 tacked onto a trip that was already planned to a different
11 location, to India, and that either the United Nations or the
12 Indian government was paying for that trip and he just rerouted
13 his return through Hong Kong.

14 Once he got to Hong Kong with his delegation, we
15 understand Mr. Ng paid for a ferry to Macau and for the
16 accommodations in Macau. I believe that was reflected in Mr.
17 Leung's testimony, possibly in Frances Fuller's testimony to
18 some extent, and certainly reflected in the 3500 material as
19 well.

20 THE COURT: Mr. Genser, is that something you take
21 issue with, what the government has just said?

22 MR. GENSER: Not as far as it goes. Obviously to
23 legal conclusions and inferences to be drawn, we preserve all
24 of our objections.

25 THE COURT: Of course. Okay.

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1 With regard to Item 6 in my order, I asked the parties
2 to address that in their comments to me. I believe that Item 7
3 has been addressed by the government, providing me Government
4 Exhibit 968. Does the defense agree that was the brochure or
5 something? I may be inaccurately describing it, but it is
6 Government Exhibit 968?

7 MR. GENSER: We don't have an issue with that, your
8 Honor.

9 THE COURT: Now, with regard to Item 8, I believe that
10 the proposed consent preliminary order of forfeiture money
11 judgment resolves that, those questions that I had there. Do
12 the parties agree with regard to that?

13 MS. ECHENBERG: Yes, your Honor.

14 MR. GENSER: Yes, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Now I'll hear from the parties.

16 Does the government wish to be heard to sentencing?

17 MS. ECHENBERG: We do, your Honor.

18 THE COURT: All right. Go ahead.

19 MS. ECHENBERG: After presiding over this month-long
20 trial, your Honor, and as you demonstrated during the
21 proceedings thus far, your Honor is extremely familiar with the
22 facts of this case.

23 This defendant is an exceptionally wealthy and
24 powerful man, and he committed an extensive and a serious
25 crime. For many years the defendant made hundreds of thousands

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1 of dollars of payments, and your Honor has already ruled that
2 that number is well above \$550,000. He made those payments to
3 two United Nations ambassadors. He made those payments in ways
4 that were hard to trace, and he made those payments in an
5 effort to obtain the United Nations approval for a permanent
6 United Nations center in Macau that would be the anchor for the
7 defendant's own massive real estate development project.

8 What the defendant did, he essentially bought the
9 ability to act as a member state within the United Nations,
10 something that is not available on the open market and it is
11 precisely the type of unfair advantage that the bribery and the
12 FCPA statutes are designed to prevent.

13 It is also the type of inequality that is in conflict
14 with the basic principles of the United Nations. The defendant
15 engaged in conduct that not only gave him a significant unfair
16 advantage, it caused serious reputational harm and serious
17 financial harm to the United Nations, and that is not in
18 dispute.

19 Your Honor has already ruled in a prior sentencing in
20 this case that those consequences came to the United Nations,
21 and the defense has acknowledged in connection with the
22 restitution order, there were hundreds of thousands of dollars
23 at least of damage to the United States nations. It is the
24 government's position that there should be a significant
25 incarceratory sentence, as least as high as the probation

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1 officer has argued, 17 months.

2 THE COURT: 72?

3 MS. ECHENBERG: 72 months.

4 MR. GENSER: We'll take the 17.

5 THE COURT: I figured, yes.

6 MS. ECHENBERG: My words cut off, your Honor, but 72
7 months is absolutely what I was referring to.

8 I want to address, and I don't know if I will have the
9 opportunity to respond when the defense finishes, so I'll
10 address now a few of the arguments, I expect, unless your Honor
11 is going to give us the opportunity?

12 THE COURT: No. I think I would allow within reason
13 the ability for the parties to respond to each other's
14 arguments. It is up to you, Ms. Echenberg. You can address
15 them, and if there are issues, points you want to make later
16 on, you can do that.

17 MS. ECHENBERG: I'll address them briefly.

18 First, this is not an aberration for this defendant.
19 I think your Honor honed in on exactly what is important about
20 the conduct that was addressed in the 1990's in the Senate
21 report. The defendant was approached by investigators. The
22 conduct was widely reported. The defendant was on notice since
23 the 1990's that engaging in financial transactions,
24 particularly transactions that go through other people and that
25 are shaded in different ways, is conduct that is criminal in

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1 the United States, it is conduct that is closely watched in the
2 United States. The defendant was on notice about that behavior
3 decades ago.

4 With regard to the conduct that involves the
5 representative, first I would note the email that has been
6 passed up deals with a time period when that individual was no
7 longer in public office, so we don't think that email is
8 particularly relevant, but that conduct occurred after the
9 conduct in the 1990's and the conduct occurred in a secretive
10 manner. In the 3500 material -- and there would have been
11 testimony had this been admitted at trial -- the defendant at
12 least in one instance directed his assistant to provide money
13 to the representative in a bag under a table in ways that
14 demonstrate that the defendant understood that this was
15 improper conduct.

16 THE COURT: Just so that I understand --

17 MS. ECHENBERG: Yes.

18 THE COURT: -- your proffer of that evidence, was that
19 prior to -- that was while the representative was still a
20 representative. Is that correct?

21 MS. ECHENBERG: That's correct, your Honor. The
22 payments were designed to have access to other public
23 officials.

24 THE COURT: Okay.

25 MS. ECHENBERG: So this conduct is not an aberration,

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1 and for that reason it should be significantly punished. The
2 defense spends a significant part of their submission focusing
3 on the defendant's philanthropic efforts.

4 First, as we noted in our submission, while it is an
5 impressive amount of money, no doubt, the defendant himself has
6 acknowledged that he is a billionaire, he is worth \$1.8
7 billion, so the amount that he gave to philanthropic causes is
8 not extraordinary in the way that the guidelines references
9 should be a reason for a significant reduction in sentence, the
10 kind that the defense is asking for.

11 In any event, the government is not arguing for a
12 guideline sentence here, nor is Probation. The government and
13 Probation are taking account of those philanthropic efforts and
14 the defendant's health conditions, which is another issue that
15 the defense addresses. Those health conditions are not
16 extraordinary, either. They are health conditions that the
17 Bureau of Prisons twice, in letters that we have submitted to
18 your Honor, says that they can accommodate and they accommodate
19 for many other prisoners.

20 The defense also addresses business and family
21 consequences, and while those consequences may be unfortunate
22 for the defendant and his family, those are risks and the
23 expected consequence of engaging in white-collar crime such as
24 this. Again, I would come back to the fact that the defendant
25 himself says he is worth \$1.8 billion. So this is not a

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1 situation where anyone is going to be in poverty or in any sort
2 of dire straights.

3 None of those reasons gives the court a reason to do
4 anything but give the defendant a significant incarceratory
5 sentence here. I would note one other thing. It is not
6 something the defense has argued yet, but I expect they may
7 argue. The defendant's home detention during these proceedings
8 should not be a factor in your Honor's consideration of the
9 sentence. The home detention did what it was designed to do.
10 It kept the defendant returning to court for these proceedings
11 leading up to sentencing just like any other defendant who is
12 on bail.

13 I would refer the court to the PSR that describes the
14 defendant's home detention. He lives in a 24-hour concierge
15 building. He lives in an apartment that is, in fact, two
16 apartments, combining a very large apartment, four bedrooms,
17 three and a half bathrooms, a large living room, a large
18 kitchen, which is well furnished and well maintained. That is
19 Probation's description.

20 He has a cook, a masseuse that constantly come by that
21 visit him from all over the world, and that increases with
22 frequency for holidays and special occasions and he is frankly
23 living a lavish lifestyle. He himself told the Probation
24 Department that his monthly expenses are over \$20,000 a month.
25 So there is nothing about what the defendant has experienced

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Sentence

1 thus far that is punishing or is anything like an incarceratory
2 sentence.

3 We have submitted the orders for forfeiture and
4 restitution, and I would also just reiterate our argument in
5 the sentencing submission for a significant fine of \$2 million.

6 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Genser, do you wish to be
7 heard.

8 MR. GENSER: Yes, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Okay.

10 MR. GENSER: I have comments that will address the
11 3553 sentencing factors, but before I address that, your Honor,
12 I wanted to briefly respond on the sort of I guess we call it
13 the three uncharged conduct areas without using the names of
14 the other folks that are involved.

15 So our argument, your Honor, is that those should be
16 afforded no weight. They're not relevant to sentencing.
17 They're certainly not aggravating factors, not just because it
18 is hearsay and hasn't been presented in any kind of
19 comprehensive way, but because there is no allegation and
20 certainly no proof that any of that relates to bribery.

21 With respect to the Senate report, what I wanted to
22 say about that, your Honor, is the business associate involved
23 in that case was a business associate of Mr. Ng's. They were
24 looking to set up a business. Mr. Ng was looking to set up
25 business relationships in the U.S. and between the U.S. and

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1 China, and he was in business with that person, and that is why
2 there were funds wired into accounts of trading companies.
3 That individual invited Mr. Ng to come to political events, and
4 Mr. Ng took advantage of those invitations.

5 There is nothing, certainly nothing except a few
6 instances of what I would qualify as double hearsay to suggest
7 that Mr. Ng had any knowledge of any campaign finance
8 violations, and what I'll note is that the individual involved
9 pleaded guilty, and it is our understanding he was actually a
10 cooperating witness and received a 5K letter from the
11 government.

12 I know this just from Google searching, and I have an
13 article from a CNN news article, November 1st, 1999 I can hand
14 up to your Honor that reports that.

15 THE COURT: That is okay. I am familiar with it,
16 which will be no surprise to my law clerk, I had Googled that
17 to determine what sentence that individual had received and
18 became aware of it at least in the media he was reported as
19 being a cooperator. Let me ask this, though.

20 I understand the hearsay argument, but I can rely on
21 hearsay?

22 THE INTERPRETER: The interpreter cannot hear your
23 microphone.

24 THE COURT: Okay. Sorry.

25 Let me just start again. With regard to hearsay, I

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Sentence

1 can rely on hearsay and, in fact, I dare say many of the --
2 well, I think all of the -- well, many of the exhibits to the
3 defense submission are, in fact, hearsay, some double hearsay.
4 So just to get the legal point out of the way, I can rely on
5 hearsay evidence in connection with sentencing.

6 Do you agree with that?

7 MR. GENSER: I do, your Honor. I am talking the
8 weight should the court ascribe to it. As additional
9 background, there was no allegation of any bribery at all in
10 any aspect of that Senate report. It was a campaign violation
11 issue with respect to the business associate.

12 I'll also note, your Honor, that Mr. Ng was never
13 charged with anything related to that. I know that there was
14 something in the PSR that suggested that witnesses had fled,
15 and Mr. Ng didn't give an interview when he was approached in
16 China relating to that, but I will proffer to the court that
17 Mr. Ng recalls actually meeting with investigators in I believe
18 1997 in his attorney's office in China, Mr. Valente, and
19 answering questions about it, and to his understanding, it was
20 cleared up.

21 So our position is if this has any relevance, its
22 relevance to knowledge that there are campaign finance laws
23 that prohibit foreign donations, it doesn't speak to what the
24 allegation in this case is, which is bribery. Our position is
25 Mr. Ng wasn't involved, didn't have any knowledge of campaign

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Sentence

1 violations in that case, and it shouldn't be given any weight
2 with respect to this sentencing.

3 With respect to the representative, I think we have
4 made our point there. There is again no allegation of bribery.
5 There is an allegation of some gifts and support to the
6 representative, as the government just said, for access, to
7 meet other people. The fact is that Mr. Ng became a benefactor
8 to the representative's family. That representative was
9 convicted, he was in terrible financial situation, and he
10 essentially implored Mr. Ng to help him support his family
11 after-the-fact, and Mr. Ng did. He took the representative's
12 children as his own godchildren, and that is reflected in the
13 letter.

14 So the government says that's somehow an aggravating
15 factor, the court can further look at it as further evidence of
16 Mr. Ng's general approach being charitable and trying to help
17 out friends in need.

18 With respect to the UN official and the \$25,000, that
19 was a loan. The person requested a loan to help out with
20 graduate school. Mr. Ng agreed to give the loan. The 3500
21 material reflects that. There was expectation it would be
22 repaid within four or five years, and there is really nothing
23 more to that. I don't think any of that should be given any
24 weight or factor in. None of it speaks to a pattern or a
25 history of attempting to bribe. It is quite the opposite. If

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Sentence

1 anything, it is a pattern or history of thinking that certainly
2 it is okay to have relationships with people, certainly okay to
3 help people financially and try and network and establish
4 himself and get contacts through those relationships.

5 So with that, I would like to now address the
6 sentencing factors and I have comments that may take a little
7 while. So we thank the court in advance for your patience.

8 THE COURT: Why don't we take a brief break since in
9 your comments you have indicated will take a little bit of
10 time, and the government I may have response to that. Let's
11 take a break now and come back in about five minutes. It is
12 about noon, so we'll come back somewhere between 12:05 and
13 12:10. Say 12:10 because there are a lot of folks here.

14 (Recess)

15 THE COURT: You may be seated. Mr. Genser, you may
16 proceed.

17 MR. GENSER: Thank you, your Honor.

18 Your Honor, Mr. Ng is 69-year-old man with some
19 significant health issues. He has a history of strokes,
20 coronary artery disease, diabetes, high blood pressure,
21 hypertension, gall bladder issues. In 10 years, he will be 80
22 years' old, just about 80 years' old, and he looks all right
23 today, but we don't know what kind of shape he will be in in 10
24 years, and I think it is fair to say that these next 10 years
25 will be perhaps the only 10 good years that he has left.

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Sentence

1 The government is asking the court to sentence him to
2 in excess of six years in jail, an amount that could well turn
3 out to be a life sentence for him depending on what that is.
4 His native language is Cantonese. He doesn't speak any
5 English. He can't stomach western food. When he was
6 incarcerated at the beginning of this case for 30 days in a
7 maximum security facility or equivalent, he lost 15 pounds.

8 Jail is going to be very, very hard on him if your
9 Honor sentences him to jail because of his age, his health
10 issues, his language, he will be isolated and vulnerable in a
11 way that most defendants are not.

12 He has, as I mentioned, already spent 30 days in jail
13 and he spent the last two and a half years locked in an
14 apartment. It's a perfectly fine apartment, but he has been
15 locked in a apartment. He has not had his freedom for the past
16 two and a half years. He indicated a waiver of deportation,
17 meaning upon release from jail, as soon as the ICE agency gets
18 around to it, he will immediately go into their custody. As
19 soon as they get around to it, he will be deported to China.
20 He will be barred from reentry for 10 years. He will never
21 come back to the United States, your Honor.

22 We ask the court to impose a sentence of time-served,
23 let him go back him to his friends and family, many of whom
24 have flown here from China and are in the courtroom here today
25 to be with him and show their support for him and for the

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Sentence

1 court.

2 As the court knows, Section 3553 sets forth various
3 factors that the court shall consider in determining a
4 particular sentence, and the overall goal is to impose a
5 sentence that is sufficient but not greater than necessary to
6 comply with the purposes in Paragraph 2 of that section. What
7 I would like to do is just highlight some of the factors. I
8 won't address all of them. We addressed them in our papers,
9 and I know your Honor has read them carefully.

10 First I would like to talk about the factors in
11 Subsection (A)(1), that direct the court to consider the nature
12 and circumstance of the offense and the history and
13 characteristics of the defendant.

14 I am going to talk about the second part of that and
15 come back to the first part of that later. I'll talk about his
16 history because his personal background and his history has
17 shaped him into the person he is today.

18 Notwithstanding the conduct in this case for which the
19 jury convicted him, the person that he is is a person who has
20 demonstrated extraordinary kindness and compassion to everyone
21 around him at every stage in his life. That is informed by the
22 history and that is what shaped him.

23 Mr. Ng has led a remarkable life. He is probably one
24 of the most remarkable people I've ever met and perhaps that
25 many of us in this room has ever met or will ever meet. He

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Sentence

1 came from literally nothing. He has lived through unimaginable
2 poverty. He has lived through hardship and tragedy, and he has
3 persevered to become an extraordinarily successful businessman
4 almost through sheer force of his will.

5 His life story is just simply amazing. He grew up in
6 extreme poverty in a turbulent, violent time in the aftermath
7 of the Communist revolution in China. His family was run out
8 of his village and exiled by the Communist Party. They
9 wandered while he was a young boy from village to village,
10 essentially close to starvation, scrounging for food.

11 His mother was so desperate that when he was a young
12 boy, she tried to drown herself and the surviving children that
13 she had because several of his siblings he never met, they
14 perished before he was born, she tried to commit suicide by
15 drowning them all in a pond, but they were saved by villagers.
16 He survived. He persevered. He quit school after elementary
17 school to go to work to help his family.

18 He did various odd jobs. He wound up working
19 construction, building what we could call them houses but
20 they're more like brick shacks by hand. He made the equivalent
21 of \$3.50 a week, most of which he gave to his mother to help
22 support the family. He was so poor when he got married, he was
23 wearing borrowed clothes. He didn't have a pair of shoes. He
24 built his own house out of abandon bricks. The house didn't
25 have door or window, didn't have running water, didn't have

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Sentence

1 electricity.

2 In 1978, but he was determined to improve his
3 situation. In 1978, he moved to Macau with the equivalent of
4 \$13.00 in his pocket, and he would turn that \$13.00 into a
5 billion dollar real estate business. He started out by selling
6 excess inventory on the streets of Macau, inventory of clothes
7 and fabrics. He was just one of thousands of migrants trying
8 to scrape a living together.

9 He rented a factory. He lived and slept there with
10 his wife and his children. He hired people from his village
11 who had also emigrated to Macau to help sell clothes on the
12 street. His strength and his enterprising spirit allowed him
13 to become a successful entrepreneur. He became a successful
14 fabric seller in Macau, did well for a while, but that business
15 went under in the wake of Tiananmen Square protest and impact
16 that had on economy. That also depressed real estate values in
17 Macau, he had the foresight and gusto to invest in real estate
18 when values were very depressed, and he did that and that paid
19 off.

20 In 1993, based on some reforms, real estate values
21 soared and he became wealthy for the first time, really
22 wealthy. That success was short-lived. As the court knows
23 from our submissions, in 1998 his second son, his beloved
24 second son, Bin Yan, who was 19 years' old and studying in
25 Canada, was killed in a tragic car accident. That was

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Sentence

1 devastating to Mr. Ng and his family, obviously.

2 In the years after his son's death, Mr. Ng suffered
3 two strokes, was hospitalized. His business suffered as well
4 and there was the SARS epidemic in 2003, which again depressed
5 the real estate market, and Mr. Ng's real estate business which
6 was overextended collapsed. He essentially lost everything,
7 was heavily in debt, chased by creditors, but he survived,
8 persevered again, never gave up.

9 He consoled his wife, supported his family, he worked
10 hard to keep current on his loan payments, and he doubled-down
11 on real estate, taking another chance that it would come back,
12 and it paid off again and he became wealthy again.

13 I dwell on this because it has shaped him. These
14 experiences have shaped him. They made him who he is. He was
15 born a peasant. He is a peasant in his heart. He is intimately
16 familiar with poverty, with pain and suffering, and he has
17 never forgotten where he came from, and that's why, as you see
18 in the letters of support and the people who are here who have
19 written to the court, he has lived a life of such extraordinary
20 compassion and generosity, and that goes to his good character,
21 which is obviously a factor that is highly relevant under the
22 3553 analysis under Subsection (a)(1).

23 I can talk about the tens of millions of dollars he
24 has given to charities, to build roads, hospitals, schools to
25 support youth in Macau. His assistance to the elderly in the

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Sentence

1 Village that he came from, that is laid out in our papers and
2 it speaks to his generous spirit.

3 We're not talking just about the amount; we are
4 talking about the quality of his charity, and that is what I
5 think is more revealing than the amount of money he has given.
6 What I would like to focus on is the way in which Mr. Ng has
7 given of himself, the way he has cared for and treated his
8 family and his employees, his fellow villagers and his
9 countrymen over the years whether he was poor or rich. That's
10 why we're asking for a variance, and there are lots of cases
11 that we cite in our papers that support a variance for all of
12 those grounds.

13 I want to touch on a few. There are a lots of
14 examples, countless examples of his generosity and compassion
15 and good character in our papers. Just a few examples.
16 Exhibit 45 to our submission is a letter from Mr. Ng's cousin,
17 Wu Yan, I hope I am pronouncing that correctly, he was Mr. Ng's
18 younger cousin, and he describes an incident when they were
19 working in construction when Mr. Ng, before he became
20 successful in Macau, Mr. Ng came across an old man in a nearby
21 village basically senile, living in the street all alone, the
22 kind of person who everyday scores of other people would just
23 walk by, but Mr. Ng didn't. He took pity on him and he took
24 him to get some clothes, took him to get some food. He found
25 him a place to live. He followed up with him. He tried to get

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Sentence

1 him into a nursing home. He just did that out of the kindness
2 of his heart before he was a wealthy man.

3 Wu Yan describes how in the 1970's in their village
4 Mr. Ng did a number of things on his own, had an enterprising
5 spirit to try to improve things for the villagers. He had the
6 idea to go and get young saplings and transplant them into the
7 village so there would be trees growing there, and he organized
8 the villagers to do that. He organized them to rebuild a
9 bridge that was falling apart and was unsafe for children and
10 older people to cross the river. He organized the villagers to
11 dig fresh water wells, and they worked together digging the
12 wells with their bare hands.

13 He tells how when he was working in the factory,
14 living in the factory in Macau selling clothes, Mr. Ng would
15 let Mr. Yo Yan sleep on the only comfortable table in the
16 factory while Mr. Ng himself slept on the floor because he was
17 his younger cousin and how when he was sick, Mr. Ng would brew
18 Chinese herbal medicine for him and stay with him and care for
19 him. That is his nature. That is who he is. These are a few
20 of examples of scores of examples in the letters.

21 There are so many stories of Mr. Ng not only giving
22 financial help to his employees and villagers when they were
23 sick and faced debilitating medical bills, but it is not just
24 the financial help, but it is his readiness to help even the
25 lowliest employee and the way he would get personally involved

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Sentence

1 to help arrange for medical care. It wasn't somebody who was
2 just writing a check.

3 Exhibit 2, your Honor, in our submission is a letter
4 from Chin Chin Yo, a fellow from Mr. Ng's home village of Ju
5 Jang in China, and he described in how 2007 Mr. Ng learned how
6 he suffered a stroke and helped him find treatment in various
7 hospitals, followed up and got physical therapy so he could
8 recover. He helped him make appointments and, yes, he paid for
9 his medical care, gave him thousands of dollars to help him pay
10 for his medical care. He also came to visit for him and check
11 up on him and he encouraged him to carry on.

12 Exhibit 12 is another example of that from Young Hu,
13 another fellow villager. He helped her and followed up with
14 her when her husband was sick with cancer. In 2007 when she
15 fell ill, he followed up again. Just a few examples, your
16 Honor.

17 He has been good to his employees. He is a kind and
18 compassionate boss. He cares about his employees, and that
19 comes through. Exhibit 15, your Honor, Liang Segwan wrote a
20 letter in support. She worked in Mr. Ng's company doing HR for
21 23 years. When she was 37 years' old, she became pregnant and
22 she had a high-risk pregnancy. Mr. Ng approved her to have
23 extra leave. He gave her extra months' pay that wasn't
24 required by law. He followed up with her to make sure she was
25 getting enough nutrition for herself and the baby, and not only

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Sentence

1 that, he held her job open for a year until she was ready to
2 come back and when she was healthy and ready to come back to
3 work.

4 More recently with South South News, after Mr. Ng was
5 incarcerated in this case, he continued to fund the operations
6 of South South News so that the employees weren't abruptly cut
7 off and finding themselves suddenly unemployed.

8 There is another story, example from the letters I
9 think is worth dwelling on for a moment. Exhibit 35 from the
10 gentleman named Wu San Hu who worked with Mr. Ng's masseuse in
11 China. He tells a story, an incident of whether Mr. Ng was in
12 a restaurant and private room in a meeting and Mr. Wu San who
13 fell ill, who fainted and he went down on the floor and called
14 out for help. The waiter came over, immediately ran into the
15 private room to get Mr. Ng.

16 Mr. Ng was in the middle of a business meeting comes
17 running out, goes right to him, gives him his medicine, Chinese
18 herbal medicine that he keeps for his own heart issues,
19 administers those, rubbing his forehead, directing people to
20 call for an ambulance, staying with him and caring for him. Of
21 course, he offered to pay for his medical costs. He recovered,
22 thankfully.

23 But this one is interesting in particular because it
24 is very similar to what the court learned about last year at
25 the post-conviction bail hearing when the court learned Mr. Ng

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Sentence

1 came to the aid of John Prindle, one of the guards from
2 Guidepost who was guarding Mr. Ng when he was in the gym in his
3 building and Mr. Prindle suffered a heart attack. Mr. Ng
4 immediately came to his aid, and he did the same thing, he
5 stayed with him, he tried to let the guards know that he had
6 medicine in his apartment that could help. He tried to help
7 with CPR. This wasn't even a thought of trying to take
8 advantage of the situation to escape. This was his instinct
9 because that is who he is.

10 It is not something that he did for show or for
11 recognition or for some advantage. He did it because that was
12 the right thing to do and he cares about the people around him.
13 He never even mentioned that incident to his lawyers. We
14 learned about it, as your Honor knows, from the Guidepost cards
15 long after the fact.

16 That just speaks to his character. Whatever led to
17 the conviction, he is a good and caring man. He also has a
18 quality of forgiveness when he is wronged, and I think I'll
19 dwell on that briefly. Exhibit 8, shows his big heartedness
20 and his readiness to forgive and forget. There is a letter
21 from a gentleman named Quan Mu Sen, who describes an incident
22 when Mr. Ng was defrauded in a business deal out of two million
23 I guess Chinese dollars, Chinese currency, and the perpetrator
24 was arrested and the money was repaid. Mr. Ng, out of pity,
25 even though he was the victim of the fraud, wrote a letter

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Sentence

1 seeking leniency to the court just out of pity for the man.

2 Exhibit 43 is a letter from Wu Quan Non, nephew of
3 Mr. Ng. He tells of a story that is also revealing of his
4 character and his spirit when Mr. Ng was back in the Village
5 and he was giving always to help elderly in the Village. He
6 came upon a man 80 years' old, and the man started crying and
7 asked him why, and he said well, I am the one of the people who
8 denounced your family as landlords when you were a little boy,
9 and now you're giving me money to help support me in my old
10 age, I feel so guilty about this. Mr. Ng's response was don't
11 worry about it, brother, it is all past. That speaks to the
12 quality of the person he is, your Honor.

13 With respect to his giving and comparable giving, the
14 government suggested that in light of his net assets, it
15 shouldn't count, but I think it should count, your Honor. I
16 don't think we measure charity based on your illiquid assets
17 and real estate investments that may or may not be realized
18 over time. We measure it by the quality of the giving. I
19 think that is what we are talking about here.

20 One example, Exhibit 18, was a letter from a gentleman
21 named Sang Hung Mu of the Maging Foundation, and he tells about
22 in 2005 Mr. Ng heard about Maging Foundation, and he didn't
23 just write a check to go support the foundation, it supports
24 education and development of underprivileged children in rural
25 parts of China, the particular Uyghur Tribe, which is not a

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Sentence

1 particularly popular group of people in China.

2 Mr. Ng and his wife traveled to this remote area to
3 see the conditions that the children lived in, to visit them,
4 to pay home visits, and Mr. Ng began by sponsoring five ethnic
5 Uyghur girls, maybe it is Uyghur, I may be mispronouncing it,
6 and he met those girls, he stayed in touch with them over the
7 years. He expanded to his foundation to include thousands and
8 thousands, support for thousands and thousands of
9 underprivileged children in rural China.

10 In 2014, he traveled to a ceremony when those five
11 girls that he essentially adopted as his godchildren graduated
12 junior high school to be with them, and there is a photograph
13 of that ceremony in Exhibit 54 of our submission. You can see
14 in the photograph the bond that he has with them and the
15 emotion that is between them at that ceremony. That is what
16 goes to his spirit and his kindness, your Honor.

17 He is also an extraordinarily dedicated family man,
18 and I take issue with the government's argument that there is
19 nothing extraordinary or warranting a variance based on his
20 dedication to his family. There are lots of cases that we
21 cited that show that that is warranted.

22 This is obviously a characteristic that is relevant in
23 the 3553 analysis. Your Honor has received letters from
24 Mr. Ng's wife of 40 years, his son Alex, his daughter Janet,
25 his daughter-in-law. They're all here in the courtroom today,

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Sentence

1 your Honor. You have received letters from his older brothers
2 and sister, and what comes through from these letters is the
3 love, the reverence, the feeling of closeness that Mr. Ng's
4 family has, the way that he is involved as a compassionate
5 father. He is still close with his older siblings. He pays
6 for all their medical care.

7 He is the patriarch of a large extended family and he
8 doesn't just provide financial support, he provides guidance,
9 he provides encouragement and emotional support for scores of
10 family members. I just want to talk about a few examples, your
11 Honor. There is a lot of discussion of that in the papers.

12 I want to highlight two things. A letter from
13 Mr. Ng's goddaughter, Doris, who is here in the court today.
14 Her mother was a nanny for Mr. Ng's children for many years,
15 and Mr. Ng adopted her as a goddaughter. She described how
16 when she was younger, she had some health problems and she was
17 essentially ostracized in school. She was very depressed as a
18 younger child and she was doing poorly in school.

19 Mr. Ng spent time with her and he has talked to her
20 and he encouraged her and he taught her how to persevere and
21 overcome challenges, and she describes in her letter how she
22 went on to graduate actually in the top of her class in her
23 high school class of 200 students and get a scholarship to the
24 University of Macau, and she credits Mr. Ng.

25 Exhibit 30 is a letter from Crystal's son, Mr. Ng's

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1 daughter-in-law, and she tells an extraordinary story. When
2 she first got married to Alex, Mr. Ng's son, and moved to
3 Macau, she was out of place and she wasn't happy living in
4 Macau. Mr. Ng traveled 5,000 miles to the other side of China
5 to speak with her parents about the situation, and he convinced
6 her parents to actually uproot themselves and come to Macau to
7 be with her so that the family would be happy and she would be
8 happy, and they did that, they came.

9 It was okay. She still wasn't making an adjustment
10 well, so Mr. Ng flew all the way back to her village, 5,000
11 miles, and spoke to aunts and uncles and cousins and friends,
12 and he convinced them all to come to Macau and he made
13 arrangements for housing. He helped them with jobs, helped
14 them with school so that his family and his extended family
15 would have a happy life. That is dedication to a family. That
16 is a family man, your Honor.

17 I have to say I've seen this myself. I have been to
18 the apartment many times over the past year. We had lunch
19 there many times. Mr. Ng greets you with a smile no matter how
20 dire the situation or how bad the news. He is always humble.
21 He serves the food himself. He goes around, and his biggest
22 concern is to make sure everyone has enough on their plate, and
23 when his grandchildren are allowed to come visit, he is so
24 happy to see them. You can see it on his face. He is really
25 involved with his family. They're very close.

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Sentence

1 Another sentencing factor that I think your Honor can
2 consider is the impact of a jail sentence on Mr. Ng's
3 employees. Because Mr. Ng is not only the beloved patriarch of
4 a large extended family, but he is essential to the continued
5 success of a business that employs several hundred people in
6 China. They need his involvement and his support. It is
7 difficult to quantify it, but imprisonment would result in
8 significant collateral damage to numerous innocent employees.

9 Over the past couple of years while he has been on
10 home detention, she has been constantly on the phone trying to
11 kind of stabilize things in the business in the wake of this
12 case and the charges. The letters that have been submitted to
13 the court talk about the enormous debt and enormous pressure
14 the business is under. The letters make clear Mr. Ng's
15 children are working to try to help run the business, but they
16 need his help to manage things.

17 If he is incarcerated, he won't be able to be on the
18 phone as he has been, and it is reasonable to expect that the
19 business is going to suffer and may not survive. Certainly
20 many of his projects employing hundreds of people in China may
21 not be able to go forward. We have cited a number of cases
22 that recognize that that is a valid consideration and a grounds
23 for a variance.

24 So I would now like to turn to the first part of 3553
25 (a)(1), the nature and circumstances of the offense. I am not

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Sentence

1 going to relitigate the facts. Your Honor has presided over
2 the trial and made rulings related to factual issues, but I
3 have one observation that I think is important to highlight and
4 I think that it is important.

5 There is absolutely no dispute in the case that the
6 evidence shows that certainly at least part of Mr. Ng's
7 motivation, and we would argue the majority of his motivation,
8 if not all of it, was to do something really good in this case,
9 that he genuinely believed in the Macau Conference Center
10 project, it would be a great thing for Macau, China and South
11 South Nations.

12 I would draw the court's attention to the fact on Page
13 18 of the government's submission, the government agrees that
14 to be sure, there is evidence, "there is evidence indicating
15 that, as the defense states, he may also have had patriotic
16 and/or philanthropic motivations for pursuing the project."

17 Of course, the government also argues that Mr. Ng had
18 a profit motive and it wasn't all pretty and they've made that
19 argument. We responded to it in our papers. I won't belabor
20 that point, but I think we should pause for a moment and
21 recognize that even that concession is remarkable coming from
22 the government in a criminal case.

23 I am not familiar with another criminal case where at
24 least part of the motive was patriotic and philanthropic, to do
25 something potentially wonderful on a grand scale that could

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Sentence

1 potentially help millions of people in the developed world, and
2 that is relevant and there is lots of evidence in the case of
3 Mr. Ng speaking about it, speaking about his vision, sharing
4 his vision and trying to present his vision on the merits to
5 different constituents.

6 Another factor that I want to address is obviously a
7 set of factors in Paragraph (a)(2) of 3553, and that is the
8 seriousness of the offense, promotion of respect for the law
9 and just punishment. These are very weighty and important
10 factors and we do not trivialize them. The government won its
11 conviction here, and this is going to the need for the sentence
12 to reflect promotion of respect for the law.

13 The government has won a conviction here. They laid
14 out the alleged misconduct at the trial. The United Nations
15 has issued task force reports. There was corruption at the
16 United Nations going that started before anything involved
17 Mr. Ng and went far beyond anything involving Mr. Ng, and the
18 government's prosecution has had salutary impact on that. The
19 United Nations has investigated it. Presumably they're
20 updating their rules and regulations to tighten up the rules
21 around support and financial support and donations, and the
22 government has struck a real blow against corruption at the
23 United Nations in this case.

24 In terms of reflecting the seriousness of the offense
25 and just punishment, we do ask the court to consider that by

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Sentence

1 virtue of Mr. Ng's status as a deportable alien, he will suffer
2 in jail far more than a typical defendant in a similar case.
3 In all likelihood -- and we have had a series of dueling
4 letters with the government, but I don't think there is a real
5 debate at least in all likelihood, he is not going to be
6 sentenced to a camp if he is sentenced to a jail.

7 He will be in a low security prison, which sounds a
8 lot better than it is, and even more likely he will be sent to
9 a private contract facility which the government uses for
10 deportable aliens, where the conditions are going to be crowded
11 and far more dangerous than they would be if he were sent to a
12 camp.

13 The likelihood of his being assaulted is going to be
14 much higher there. He will be particularly vulnerable because
15 of his age, his health and very significantly, your Honor, his
16 inability to speak or understand English. Even the Probation
17 Department notes that as a result of that, Mr. Ng is likely to
18 experience a sense of isolation in prison. He won't be
19 eligible for early release. That's 10 percent of any sentence
20 up to six months.

21 And then he's already consented to deportation. The
22 impact of that is that he won't be brought before an
23 immigration judge, but he will be sent, if he is sent to jail
24 at the close of the sentence, he will be sent immediately to
25 ICE custody and he could languish there for an indeterminate

I5BJNG1

Sentence

1 amount of time before he is deported back to China. I don't
2 know how long that could last. It could be a matter of days,
3 it could be weeks and months.

4 THE COURT: Mr. Genser, I am not sure if I understood
5 exactly. Are you saying that because of Mr. Ng's status, he is
6 not eligible to get credit for good behavior, is that what
7 you're saying?

8 MR. GENSER: It is early release.

9 THE COURT: To a halfway house?

10 MR. GENSER: Halfway house, and that credit which is
11 10 percent up to six months, that is laid out in Mr. Ziegler's
12 affidavit.

13 THE COURT: All right.

14 MR. GENSER: Considering what is sufficient but no
15 greater than necessary to constitute a just punishment, we do
16 ask the court to consider the punishment that Mr. Ng has
17 already suffered in this case. He has spent a month in what
18 was effectively a maximum security prison, I am not sure if it
19 was MDC or MCC or some combination thereof. He was in jail for
20 30 days. He didn't do well there, your Honor. The letters
21 describe the impact on him. He was gaunt, he lost 15 pounds,
22 doesn't eat western food.

23 Then for the past two and a half, almost three years,
24 his life has been in limbo. He has exercised his right to go
25 to trial, but the impact of this case is that his life has been

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Sentence

1 in limbo. He has been in an apartment. Certainly that is
2 better than jail, but he hasn't been a free man. He has again
3 under lock and key in an apartment for two and a half, almost
4 three years already. That is something. It is not nothing.

5 He has had to live with the anxiety and expense of
6 this case. His reputation has been shredded. His business has
7 been knocked back on its heels. He is struggling to survive.
8 He will be a felon for the rest of his life. He is going to be
9 paying a fine, we're fairly confident it will be at least a
10 million dollars. He has agreed not to contest forfeiture of
11 over \$300,000. He has agreed to settle forfeiture allegations
12 for one and a half million dollars, your Honor. He has paid
13 millions of dollars in attorney's fees.

14 The question is how much punishment is enough? How
15 much more punishment is needed in this case? That brings us to
16 Section 3553 (a)(2)(B) and (C), the need for deterrence and
17 protection of the public.

18 These factors, your Honor, I note that Mr. Ng has
19 agreed to waive deportation proceedings and consent to
20 deportation. He will never come back to America again. He
21 will never do business here again. There is literally no
22 chance that he will be a recidivist. Deterrence has been
23 accomplished, both specific and general. There is no danger of
24 further crimes by Mr. Ng. The case has received wide
25 publicity. The government has emphatically made its point.

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Sentence

1 To wind up, the punishment Mr. Ng has suffered
2 already, as I mentioned, the question is what further
3 punishment is really necessary to do justice in this case. If
4 the court believes that the offense conduct itself, the
5 mitigating facts and with the mitigating motives that I've
6 described warrants a sentence greater than time-served, our
7 question is isn't that outweighed by Mr. Ng's history and good
8 character, the life of compassion he led, the kindness of
9 generosity he has shown throughout his life, his close family
10 ties, the support that he has given to his employees, the need
11 that his business has for him, and the way that he'll uniquely
12 suffer if he is sent to jail?

13 So for all of those reasons, your Honor, we do ask for
14 leniency and we do ask for a sentence of time-served. If your
15 Honor cannot see to give him a sentence of time-served, we ask
16 for a very low sentence in jail, to let Mr. Ng go back to his
17 family and go back to China where he belongs. Thank you.

18 THE COURT: Mr. Genser, actually I have one question
19 to follow up on your comments.

20 I've sentenced two other defendants in this case, both
21 of whom were sentenced to jail time, both of whom I think would
22 be characterized as less involved in the underlying criminal
23 conduct. So why in terms of sentencing disparities, why would
24 it be appropriate or what is your argument with why it would be
25 appropriate here that Mr. Ng receive a non-incarceratory

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Sentence

1 sentence in light of that?

2 MR. GENSER: Your Honor, obviously the need to avoid
3 disparate sentences is one of the sentencing factors, and we
4 are certainly aware that Mr. Yin was sentenced to seven months
5 and Sheri Yan was sentenced to 20 months, and we understand
6 that the court would view Mr. Ng as more culpable.

7 Our argument, your Honor, there are differences that
8 are personal to Mr. Ng that relate to the factors that I've
9 laid out, your Honor. They're not almost 70 years' old. For
10 example, Mr. Yin is a young man. He speaks English, a U.S.
11 Citizen. What he did was essentially separate and apart with
12 anything to do with Mr. Ng with his tax evasion.

13 Ordinarily absent all the extraordinary circumstances
14 we have outlined, a sentence greater than those sentences might
15 well be warranted, your Honor, but our argument is that these
16 factors are unique to Mr. Ng. Neither of those people have had
17 the history, lived the life that he has lived, have shown the
18 compassion and had support of family and charities, the
19 kindness to employees, supporting the businesses, have so many
20 people depending on them. Neither of them would face the same
21 issues that Mr. Ng would face in jail, and I will note that
22 with respect to Ms. Yan, she was convicted on her own plea for
23 \$800,000 of bribes for specific quid pro quo with no
24 philanthropic or patriotic motive at all. She got 20 months,
25 your Honor.

I5BJNG1

Sentence

1 I understand the government will argue that the crime
2 here, the alleged crime for which he was convicted is more
3 extensive and that his involvement was more serious, but it is
4 different. It was for fundamentally a philanthropic endeavor,
5 and the dollars involved are not so different, your Honor.

6 Mr. Ng, certainly I know at that sentencing your Honor
7 commented there was evidence Ms. Yan, there was evidence she
8 was a good person. If there is evidence she was a good person,
9 your Honor, there is a mountain of evidence that speaks to the
10 quality of the person Mr. Ng is. Those factors I think would
11 compensate for what we would agree would be circumstances where
12 you would ordinarily look to a sentence that would be somewhat
13 greater than the sentence of those two individuals.

14 THE COURT: Thank you.

15 Ms. Echenberg, do you have anything to add?

16 MS. ECHENBERG: Yes, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Yes.

18 MS. ECHENBERG: The defendant before you today, your
19 Honor, is an exceptionally rich and powerful man. He has used
20 that wealth to pay multiple people over time, not just the
21 conduct in this case, the other conduct that we have previously
22 discussed. He has used that wealth to direct it at people who
23 had the ability to influence his business. That is exactly
24 what he did here.

25 What he was motivated by was not fundamentally a

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Sentence

1 philanthropic endeavor. The evidence at trial was clear. Your
2 Honor may remember the video that we played a substantial
3 portion of during closing argument. It talked about a
4 development that had luxury hotels, luxury stores, a helipad.
5 We are talking about a massive real estate development that the
6 defendant and his family stood to gain tremendously from. So
7 that is the motivation here, and that should not be lost.

8 The conduct here is incredibly serious. The United
9 Nations is one of the premier international institutions. The
10 defendant corrupted it. That's what he was convicted of doing.
11 He led that crime.

12 The defense has talked about the conditions in jail
13 and the designations. We addressed that in our papers. We
14 disagree, we believe, based on our conversations with the
15 Bureau of Prisons and what is represented in their materials,
16 that the defendant will have the ability and he has excellent
17 representation to advocate for him to be in the most
18 appropriate location for him.

19 I want to bring the court back to the guidelines here,
20 which is 235 to 293 months. Your Honor has ruled that is the
21 appropriate guidelines, and the Probation Department
22 specifically took account of all of the factors that the
23 defense has talked about, the defendant's history, his
24 philanthropic efforts, and with all of that in mind, the
25 Probation Department recommends a significant sentence of 72

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Sentence

1 months.

2 A time-served sentence here would be a terrible
3 message to send for a case like this. As your Honor knows,
4 international bribery in FCPA cases are incredibly hard to
5 investigate and to prosecute. The records are abroad, the
6 individuals are abroad. These cases are so difficult to
7 investigate that the Department of Justice has instituted a
8 special policy for corporations that cooperate in these
9 investigations, to give them significant leniency. That is how
10 difficult these cases are.

11 So people are watching this case. People are watching
12 what your Honor is going to do, and general deterrence is
13 critical here. The defense has asserted our prosecution struck
14 a real blow to corruption at the United Nations. There have
15 been changes. The United Nations certainly took account of our
16 case and the press has also been following the case.

17 A significant sentence for this rich and powerful
18 defendant, that is what is going to strike a real blow to
19 corruption not only at the United Nations but in our major
20 institutions and organizations frankly across the world. Your
21 Honor, it is critical that this defendant receive a significant
22 incarceratory sentence.

23 THE COURT: Thank you.

24 MR. GENSER: Your Honor, if I may respond just
25 briefly?

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Sentence

1 THE COURT: Yes, briefly.

2 MR. GENSER: Your Honor, there are a number of cases
3 involving allegations of serious conduct that we have cited in
4 our papers where, based on factors similar to what are present
5 here, courts have varied very, very substantially from very
6 high guideline ranges, and it is not necessary, your Honor, to
7 put Mr. Ng in a United States jail, at taxpayer expense, a
8 69-year-old man who speaks no English, for the world to get the
9 message the government wants to send.

10 There are very, very unique factors here that would
11 justify the sentence we are asking for and would in no way
12 dilute the need to promote respect for the law and general
13 deterrence. That is all we have to say. The last thing is
14 Mr. Ng obviously will have something to say to address the
15 court, and we ask your Honor to consider that as well.

16 THE COURT: Absolutely.

17 MS. ECHENBERG: I forgot to answer one of your Honor's
18 questions about ICE custody.

19 THE COURT: Yes.

20 MS. ECHENBERG: If this is to factor in your decision
21 at all, we understand from a representation from ICE that if
22 your Honor signs the removal order, the defendant at the
23 conclusion of any sentence would spend up to two weeks in
24 custody. It will be very brief, and then he would be deported.

25 THE COURT: Thank you. Mr. Ng, do you wish to be

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Sentence

1 heard?

2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

3 THE COURT: I don't know the interpreter's name. Are
4 you going to be doing the translation?

5 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: You may proceed.

7 THE DEFENDANT: Your Honor, I would like to first
8 thank the court for allowing me to stay out on bail during this
9 case. Even though the past few years have been very difficult
10 for me, it is better than being in jail. At the same time, I
11 would like to thank the court and the government for allowing
12 my family and friends to come visit.

13 Your Honor, I want to apologize to the court for all
14 the trouble my actions have caused. I alone am responsible for
15 my actions. Looking back, I am filled with regret how I went
16 to about trying to support the Macau Conference Center.

17 Your Honor, I really believed that the Macau
18 Conference Center it would do great things for Macau in the
19 South South Nations. Your Honor, I would ask for your mercy
20 not only for myself, but more importantly, for my family.

21 My wife is this year over 66 years' old. Since my
22 youngest son passed away when he was 19 years' old, my wife's
23 health has been deteriorating. In the past 40 years, even
24 though I was penniless, my wife never abandoned me through
25 thick and thin and kept me a companion. Now that she is in her

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Sentence

1 twilight years, she needs my companionship.

2 I very much hope I can continue my responsibilities to
3 her as a husband. It seems that since I have been arrested,
4 especially after my conviction, my creditors have been pushing
5 me for repayment. Interest has been piling up, the bank has
6 closed my account, the previous business partners are shunning
7 us. The business that I built over in the past decades is
8 facing great difficulties.

9 Since I have been allowed to stay out on bail, every
10 day I spent a few hours every day to try to stabilize the
11 business. If I go to jail, my children will bear my
12 responsibilities. Even though they are very talented, but
13 since I have been sheltered, I have always sheltered them in
14 the -- I have been protecting them and not to let them handle
15 these responsibilities, I am very afraid that they will not be
16 able to handle it and to bear these responsibilities, that the
17 business would not survive.

18 There are many employees who have been working for me
19 and my company for decades because they trust me. I am also
20 very afraid for the future, your Honor. I have eight
21 granddaughters and grandsons. I miss them dearly. I very much
22 want to go back to them, to greet them, to tell them stories,
23 to play with them. I am very sorry for the pain and suffering
24 I have caused my family, my friends and employees. I swear
25 that I will never repeat my mistakes again.

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Sentence

1 Your Honor, I sincerely wish that you could show
2 leniency on me. My only wish is that I can return to my family
3 as soon as possible instead of having my family to bring me
4 home in ashes.

5 Thank you, your Honor. Thank everybody.

6 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, Mr. Ng.

7 Let me ask, is there any reason why sentence should
8 not be imposed at this time?

9 MS. ECHENBERG: No, your Honor.

10 MR. GENSER: No, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: As I've stated, and the parties agree,
12 obviously with conditions with the objections have been made,
13 the defendant's guideline range is 235 to 293 months
14 imprisonment. Under the Supreme Court's decision in Booker and
15 its progeny, the guideline is just one factor that I must
16 consider in deciding an appropriate sentence here.

17 I am also required to consider the other factors set
18 forth in 18, United States Code, Section 3553 (a), and the
19 parties have addressed those issues both in their submissions
20 as well as here today in court. So I am going to consider all
21 of those factors, and those factors include, but are not
22 limited to, the nature and circumstances of the offense and the
23 personal history and characteristics of the defendant since
24 each defendant must be considered individually.

25 I am also required to consider the need for the

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Sentence

1 sentence imposed to reflect the seriousness of the offense,
2 promote respect for the law, provide just punishment for the
3 offense, and afford adequate deterrence to criminal conduct and
4 avoid unwarranted sentencing disparities among other things.

5 First I am going to address Mr. Ng's history and
6 characteristics, and obviously there has been a lot said today
7 here as well as a lot of information contained in the
8 submission. Now, I accept Mr. Ng overcame poverty and at time
9 there was depressive conduct directed towards himself and his
10 family by the government in China at the time when he was a
11 child.

12 I also note that there were various deprivations his
13 family faced, and some could be characterized as serious
14 deprivations while he was growing up that left his family in at
15 times despair and resulted also in poor health to his family
16 members as well as the death of some of his siblings who were
17 older than Mr. Ng. So I will consider that background and
18 Mr. Ng's apparent resiliency and the success he has had as a
19 person as part of my determination of what an appropriate
20 sentence is for Mr. Ng.

21 Now there are numerous letters from friends and family
22 members, former employees, current employees, business
23 associates, just to name a few categories that paint a picture
24 of Mr. Ng as a devoted family man as well as someone who is
25 philanthropic and also personally generous with his time as

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Sentence

1 well as his finances. Those are documented in letter, and Mr.
2 Genser pointed out some specific examples here today in court.
3 Those letters describe various, as I mentioned, various acts of
4 kindness for individuals who are in need of medical care, to
5 citizens and folks from Mr. Ng's home town, to the citizens of
6 Macau, including children as well as the elderly.

7 So I'll consider the views that have been expressed by
8 your friends and family members and others in connection with
9 your sentence, concerning your character which I, outside of
10 the presentation of evidence here in court, I have to rely on
11 the parties to provide that information. As I indicated, I'll
12 consider that information in connection with determining what
13 an appropriate sentence is here today.

14 Now, as I mentioned, in the letters they do mention
15 the charitable contributions you have made over the years, and
16 I will consider your philanthropic over the years and again not
17 necessarily as a percentage of your overall wealth, although I
18 do acknowledge the point the government makes with regard to
19 your overall wealth and percent as being a percentage of your
20 donations more generally really to reflect on your overall
21 character as a person.

22 However, to the extent that certain of the letters
23 written on your behalf take issue with your prosecution as
24 misguided or driven by some political motivations or some other
25 rationale other than enforcement of the law, just to be clear,

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Sentence

1 I reject those views. As I mentioned earlier in my comments, I
2 believe the jury's verdict was reasonable, a reasonable and
3 just outcome based on the evidence that was presented and
4 admitted, and I have ruled as such in connection with the
5 post-trial motions.

6 In addition, I am going to consider what was presented
7 to me pretrial as 404 (b) evidence related to the political
8 contributions and your interactions with the representative as
9 well as the loan. However, the \$25,000 loan I think is less of
10 an issue for me. So to that extent, I give that really a very
11 little weight, if not no weight.

12 I find that the evidence presented with regard to that
13 and the proffers made with regard to that of your past actions,
14 I think that they're sufficient for me to consider here in
15 terms of sentences and in terms of your sentence and what an
16 appropriate sentence is.

17 In particular, as I mentioned earlier, with regard to
18 the issue of specific deterrence as well as general deterrence,
19 although I believe the allegations related to the campaign
20 contributions, and again I understand the back-and-forth that
21 is contained in the reports concerning what access the members
22 of Congress had to witnesses and other things in connection
23 with that. It is not so much the specifics again, as I
24 mentioned earlier, of the actions and the amounts involved as
25 it is a reflection and is probative on your apparent

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Sentence

1 willingness to utilize your money at various stages, putting
2 aside what the underlying motivation is, but utilize your money
3 to accomplish ends that you believed, you believed in; in other
4 words, that included skating close to the line between legal
5 and illegal conduct.

6 Certainly the awareness that that sort of activity, in
7 other words, by that sort of activity, I mean utilizing your
8 money in that way, and I'll use this term, probably not the
9 correct term, really throwing your money around in that way
10 caused the authorities to focus on those activities.

11 And yet despite those indications, more so with the
12 contributions, you chose to proceed the way you did in this
13 matter, by again utilizing money and paying folks, ambassadors
14 and the president of the PGA rather than seeking some other
15 alternative means of pressing something, and I accept your
16 counsel's representation that is something that you believed in
17 and that is being the Macau Conference Center. The ends don't
18 justify the means, and that is what the law is designed to make
19 sure that folks don't follow that adage in their conduct.

20 So I'll consider that information that was
21 characterized as 404 (b) in that context, as sort of a
22 reflection on what your state of mind was and also in an effort
23 to make a determination, which is not an easy one to do
24 concerning recidivism, provide punishment as well as the
25 deterrent effect in connection with sentencing.

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Sentence

1 Now, I also accept that a sentence of incarceration
2 will have an impact on your family and your business. However,
3 in just about every sentence that I impose and quite frankly
4 that are imposed by my colleagues here in this courthouse,
5 there is an impact on family members. It is tragic and
6 oftentimes obviously innocent bystanders to the conduct of a
7 loved one. So that impact I think, although I will consider, I
8 think it is of substantially less weight than some of the other
9 things I've mentioned here in part because unlike -- and again
10 it is admirable that you were able to work and develop the
11 business that you have, but many of the defendants I have who
12 come before me have nothing or really next to nothing.

13 They may have young children, as young as two or even
14 younger, and the consequence of them going to jail is that
15 their loved ones really have to be able to find a way to
16 literally put food on the table, and it is a tragic consequence
17 of criminal conduct that there are others involved here. As I
18 mentioned, I will consider it, although I don't give it as much
19 weight as I do some of the other factors I will also.

20 I will also take into effect again, as I mentioned
21 earlier, your age and the various infirmities you have in
22 making a determination of what an appropriate sentence is. As
23 I noted earlier, obviously, a sentence that is certainly in the
24 guideline range and actually even far below that would
25 effectively mean that you would spend the rest of your life in

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Sentence

1 prison.

2 I also recognize that you won't receive the same level
3 of health care as you would if you were not incarcerated, but
4 again I don't give that a substantial amount of weight. I
5 recognize the conditions that you've had and the history, but I
6 don't ascribe to the views that Mr Ziegler has said. I do
7 believe that the Bureau of Prisons will be able to address your
8 health issues during any period of incarceration.

9 Now, with regard to Mr. Ziegler's views about your
10 designation to a low security versus a minimum security
11 facility, I find that certain of his assertions in his
12 affidavit certainly have some basis in history that Mr Ziegler
13 has indicated that he has. However, I would describe that more
14 as what is really is a term, for lack of a better one, I will
15 say knowledgeable speculation.

16 Until the Bureau of Prisons does their calculation,
17 while we can assume where Mr. Ng might fall in terms of a
18 designation, there are a whole number of other factors that it
19 didn't appear as if Mr Ziegler had considered, including the
20 possibility of a recommendation by me concerning a facility as
21 well as other things that the Bureau of Prisons takes into
22 account with regard to what level of security a defendant
23 should be placed.

24 I find that the conditions of confinement are not so
25 onerous in a low security facility to warrant substantial

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Sentence

1 weight here, although I do recognize that they will be more
2 onerous and in particular in Mr. Ng's case because of the fact
3 he does not speak English. However, I do note, and
4 historically there have been many defendants who are considered
5 white collar defendants who are in low security facilities and
6 come close in connection with the sentencing, I came across an
7 individual who was sentenced recently by one of my colleagues
8 in the Eastern District, and my understanding, again from press
9 reports, is that he is currently housed in a low security
10 facility, and that is Mr. Scorelli, who was recently convicted
11 in the Eastern District. I believe he is housed in -- I don't
12 remember, it might be Fort Dix, but I am not entirely sure.

13 So there is precedent for white collar defendants to
14 be in a low security facility. I will consider it, but as I
15 mentioned, I won't give it a substantial amount of weight in
16 what an appropriate sentence is for you.

17 Next I'll turn to the circumstances and nature of the
18 events. There is no question that you have been convicted of
19 serious offenses. Your activities were not isolated incident,
20 but instead occurred over a number of years. In other words,
21 you had more than ample opportunity to rethink your approach as
22 to how you would accomplish your end goal of having a
23 conference center built in Macau.

24 However, at least based upon the evidence presented at
25 trial, not only did you not change your mind with regard to how

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Sentence

1 you'd proceed, the evidence would suggest that you became, as
2 that possibility became closer, you became more aggressive as
3 time went on, pushing either directly or indirectly through
4 Jeff Yin or Leung and Ashe to complete certain tasks and take
5 certain actions in their capacity as ambassadors in Mr. Yin's
6 case as one of your employees, with regard to Mr. Ashe as
7 President of the PGA, as well as the actions and influence the
8 actions of others within the United Nations. As I mentioned,
9 in your actions here, you were undaunted in particular by the
10 investigation that ensued in connection with the donations
11 issue that I mentioned earlier.

12 Now, the offense here also was not something that
13 could be described as sophisticated. It at times involved
14 shell companies, what was portrayed, and the jury found there
15 was sufficient evidence, fake contracts and the funneling of
16 money internationally, all of which, whether intentionally and
17 I think the evidence, it could be inferred that that was
18 intentional, but even not, it certainly made the detection of
19 that activity and the bribery scheme more difficult.

20 The parties have also mentioned, and as I mentioned in
21 a prior sentence in this case, there is no question that there
22 has been damage to the United Nations as an institution.
23 Obviously, there is restitution here and I credit the defendant
24 for agreeing to that restitution amount to the United Nations,
25 but that is a matter of the money that was expended.

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Sentence

1 The UN's reputation was certainly tarnished by your
2 actions and the actions of others, in particular Mr. Ashe and
3 Mr. Leung, but by rigging the system, you deprived the members
4 of the United Nations of considering the merits or folly of
5 having a permanent conference center in Macau or anywhere else
6 in the world. In other words, it rigged the system in such a
7 way that it didn't allow for legitimate debate concerning what
8 the pros and cons would be for having such a conference center
9 at all or for the location of such a conference center.

10 In addition, although the likelihood of recidivism of
11 someone your age is statistically very, very low, the fact you
12 committed the instant offense when you were already in your
13 mid-60's also somewhat defies the statistics. So although I
14 recognize the statistical aspect of it, there are other things
15 that impact my consideration, including your past issue with
16 the political contributions which I think impact my
17 consideration of the deterrent effect going forward.

18 Now, I also think that general deterrence in this case
19 does deserve real consideration. I understand, and I hear
20 arguments all the time, that is there really such thing as
21 general deterrence. I think in this case in particular,
22 because of the fact it involved the United Nations, because of
23 the fact it involves yourself, someone of prominence in terms
24 of your stature as a businessperson in your own country, but
25 also recognized here in the United States, I do think general

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Sentence

1 deterrence is an issue that I will consider here in connection
2 with what an appropriate sentence is.

3 In at least in part, it might give, I would hope, give
4 pause to individuals whether they're in like circumstances of
5 yourself or not, will give them pause to any consideration they
6 have about doing, corrupting institutions like the United
7 Nations to achieve their personal goals and whims in connection
8 whatever activities that they might have and beyond the public
9 embarrassment or inconvenience of having a criminal case filed
10 against them.

11 In addition, I do think it is also important to send a
12 message to those at the United Nations itself and other
13 institutions in this country that perverting the
14 decision-making or attempting to pervert decision-making
15 through bribes will not be tolerated and that there are
16 consequences to those actions.

17 So, Mr. Ng, with that, if you could please rise for
18 the imposition of sentence. It is the judgment of the Court
19 you be committed to the custody of the Bureau of Prisons for a
20 period of 48 months. I will impose a period of supervised
21 release, although I believe that in all likelihood you -- you
22 may be seated -- you are going to be deported, but I would
23 impose a period of supervised release of three years. You will
24 be subject to the mandatory conditions of supervision set forth
25 on Page 46 and 47 of your presentence report, the standard and

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Sentence

1 special conditions set forth on Pages 47 and 48 of the
2 presentence report.

3 I am going to impose a million dollars in fines, and I
4 will also sign the restitution order and the forfeiture order
5 that has been presented to me for my signature. I will also
6 execute the judicial order of removal. That has also been
7 presented to me. You're also required to pay a special
8 assessment on each count of \$100.00, for a total of \$600.00.

9 Now, I am not, although I recognize the government
10 requested that you be remanded immediately, I am not going to
11 remand you today. I am going to allow you to voluntarily
12 surrender to the Marshal Service.

13 I find that the sentence is sufficient but not greater
14 than necessary to comply with the purposes of sentencing set
15 forth in 18 United States Code Section 3553 (a). Do either
16 counsel know of any legal reason why this sentence should not
17 be imposed as stated?

18 MS. ECHENBERG: No, your Honor. I would just ask that
19 you state the forfeiture and the restitution amounts on the
20 record that you intend to impose.

21 THE COURT: State the amount?

22 MS. ECHENBERG: On the record.

23 THE COURT: I believe the forfeiture amount is \$1.5
24 million and the restitution amount is \$329,707.20, payable to
25 the United Nations.

I5BJNG1

Sentence

1 MS. ECHENBERG: Thank your Honor. You're imposing
2 both of those?

3 THE COURT: Correct. In fact, just so the record is
4 clear, I have the restitution order here and I am signing it
5 right now. I also have the consent preliminary order of
6 forfeiture that has been signed by the parties. I am signing
7 that now. Lastly, I have the judicial removal along with the
8 accompanying supporting documents which I have just signed.

9 Mr. Genser do you know of any legal reason why the
10 sentence should not be imposed as stated?

11 MR. GENSER: No, your Honor. We would ask that -- and
12 we appreciate that your Honor's permitting Mr. Ng to surrender
13 voluntarily -- we ask that your Honor set that date to be no
14 sooner than 60 days from today.

15 THE COURT: I will do that. Ms. Williams.

16 THE CLERK: July 10th.

17 THE COURT: July 10th. With regard to where, I am
18 going to, and again I will hear the parties on this, but I
19 intend to have Mr. Ng surrender here in this district.

20 I think I am going to continue all of the bail
21 conditions as mentioned right now until the surrender date, and
22 I think the logistics of -- and again I don't know where Mr. Ng
23 will be designated, but the logistics of actually getting
24 Mr. Ng, if it is, as I understood, might be in California or
25 out West would be I think significant.

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Sentence

1 MR. GENSER: On that, your Honor, I think we would ask
2 that your Honor permit Mr. Ng to surrender directly to the
3 facility. I think it is laid out in Mr. Ziegler's affidavit.
4 The transportation process to the facility in custody is
5 particularly onerous and can last several weeks. It is very
6 difficult to get medical attention, and we can certainly
7 arrange with Guidepost to have him delivered under guard to
8 whatever facility the court designates.

9 THE COURT: This is what I would suggest. I think the
10 designated facility will be decided in advance. We'll have
11 time. So I want you to speak with Guidepost, speak with the
12 government, and present to me whatever the plan would be for
13 that transportation so that I can make the ultimate decision
14 about that.

15 Look, it is conceivable, and I understand -- let me
16 ask Mr. Genser, is there a specific request that Mr. Ng be
17 housed in a low security facility in the western region of the
18 Bureau of Prisons' system?

19 MR. GENSER: Your Honor, we would ask he be
20 designated, and court strongly recommend to the BOP, he be
21 designated to LSCI Allenwood in White Deer, Pennsylvania.

22 THE COURT: I'll make the recommendation of Allenwood
23 or another low -- well, I will make the recommendation of
24 Allenwood and would be willing to make a recommendation, if not
25 Allenwood, somewhere on the East Coast if that is what you

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Sentence

1 would request.

2 MR. GENSER: Yes, we would request and that and we
3 would propose we can actually provide specific language that we
4 would be requesting to be included in the judgment with respect
5 to the recommendation for designation.

6 THE COURT: Okay. The only thing, I ask you share
7 that language with the government and hopefully there is
8 agreement with regard to that.

9 MR. GENSER: Yes.

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 MS. ECHENBERG: Your Honor, so it is currently our
12 position that the defendant should surrender here as your Honor
13 had initially ordered. We'll, of course, look at whatever the
14 defense submits and take it up with your Honor, but that is our
15 position.

16 THE COURT: Just to be clear, my concern with the
17 logistics is just that. I understand the Guidepost would
18 probably be willing to do it. The issue for me is there now
19 has been a sentence that has been imposed. It is a sentence of
20 incarceration for a period of time that is not insubstantial.
21 So I think that there are differences between the pretrial
22 release and now, so I would want to, to the extent I would
23 change my view about that, I need to see what the plan would
24 be, and the parties should meet-and-confer about that and
25 present it to me in advance of, hopefully well in advance of

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Sentence

1 the 60 days we have indicated for surrender.

2 MR. GENSER: Your Honor, can we have a few days after
3 today to confer with the government about those issues and
4 present the court with a hopefully agreed-upon plan and some
5 language for the designation?

6 THE COURT: Absolutely. Do you want to make it three
7 weeks to do that, two weeks?

8 THE COURT: My Deputy Clerk, who I take counsel from
9 in just about all matters, said next Friday, if that is
10 sufficient. I think in part, let me just be clear.

11 I think the reason is for the judgment, so that we can
12 have put in the judgment whatever both the language that the
13 parties would suggest and anything else because in order to
14 start the ball rolling, the judgment needs to be issued.

15 MR. GENSER: That is fine with us.

16 MS. ECHENBERG: One other matter with regard to the
17 sentence.

18 THE COURT: Yes.

19 MS. ECHENBERG: If your Honor could just make clear
20 that sentence applies concurrently to all of the counts.

21 THE COURT: I am sorry. Yes, the sentence of 48
22 months is on each count, to be assessed concurrently on that.
23 I apologize. I should have made that clear.

24 I think overall that is a sentence, again it is a
25 substantial variance from the guidelines and a variance from

I5BJNG1

Sentence

1 where Probation came out. So even if I had ruled on certainly
2 with regard to many of the issues, I still think that is an
3 overall appropriate sentence in this case.

4 MR. GENSER: Your Honor, will the defendant, would the
5 court recommend the defendant receive credit for the 30 days he
6 spent in jail already?

7 THE COURT: He should automatically receive that under
8 the way that they calculate, but to the extent I need to
9 recommend that, I would do that, yes, since it is the same
10 offense. Is there anything else?

11 MS. ECHENBERG: Just that your Honor advise the
12 defendant of his right to appeal. We would make a motion to
13 dismiss the counts in the underlying indictments.

14 THE COURT: Mr. Ng, you have the right to appeal your
15 conviction and sentence. The notice of appeal must be filed
16 within 14 days of the judgment of conviction. If you're not
17 able to pay the cost of an appeal, you may apply for leave to
18 appeal in forma pauperis. If you request, the Clerk of the
19 Court will file and prepare a notice of appeal on your own
20 behalf.

21 Now, Mr. Ng, I know it is not the sentence that your
22 attorneys had asked for, but I hope that when you are released
23 from custody, you go home and spend time, and I should have
24 mentioned that it is clear that your family, there are at least
25 26 members, friends and family that are here if not more of you

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Sentence

1 and it is clear that they support you. I suggest that you make
2 use of that support while you're incarcerated and once you're
3 released. Is admirable they have stood by you and I believe
4 that they will continue to stand by you.

5 I will dismiss the open counts in the underlying
6 indictments. Is there anything else?

7 MR. GENSER: Yes, your Honor. We would actually make
8 an application for bail pending appeal. We intend, obviously,
9 to appeal the conviction and possibly the sentence, and we
10 would make an application orally for bail pending appeal.

11 We're prepared to address that today, although given
12 that your Honor has granted Mr. Ng some time and ability to
13 voluntarily surrender, it is possible we could come back
14 another day to argue that. We are prepared to argue that
15 today. I am prepared to argue the risk of flight issues, and
16 my colleague, Ms. Murphy, is here, an appellate specialist, is
17 prepared to outline the second prong of that, which is the
18 likelihood of substantial success and substantial questions on
19 appeal.

20 THE COURT: I guess the question I have, since we do
21 have some time, I am willing to allow limited submissions if
22 you like. The government has in their briefs to me, in their
23 sentencing submission did address the issue. I note in the
24 defense submission not in a substantive way, with regard to
25 case law or we can address it now.

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MR. GENSER: We would be happy to address it.

(Off-the-record discussion)

THE COURT: I do lose track of time. Well, should we come back after a brief break to allow people to have lunch and then continue this argument?

MR. GENSER: It is fine with me, your Honor. The only constraint that I have, I have an arraignment in front of Judge Failla at 3:00 p.m.

THE COURT: Well, why don't we take half an hour and then come back. Does that work for the government?

MS. ECHENBERG: Yes, your Honor.

MR. GENSER: That would be fine.

THE COURT: So it is now 1:40. We are going to come back in half an hour.

(Luncheon recess)

(Continued on next page)

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1 AFTERNOON SESSION

2 2:10 p.m.

3 (In open court)

4 THE COURT: Mr. Genser, are you ready to proceed?

5 MR. GENSER: Yes, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: OK.

7 MR. GENSER: Actually, if I may just have one moment.

8 THE COURT: Oh, sure, go ahead.

9 MR. GENSER: Your Honor, we have an application for
10 bail pending appeal. Obviously, the burden has shifted. We
11 have the burden to prove by clear and convincing evidence that
12 Mr. Ng will not be a danger to the community or a risk of
13 flight, and there's also the second part of the issue of
14 substantial questions on appeal which my colleague, Erin
15 Murphy, will address.

16 Your Honor, I would suggest there's no question here
17 of danger to the community. That's never been an issue in the
18 case.

19 With respect to risk of flight, I think that the fact
20 that Mr. Ng is here today is all the evidence that your Honor
21 needs to support our burden. Mr. Ng was convicted. He's
22 complied with his bail conditions in every respect. Guidepost
23 has confirmed to us and to the government that Mr. Ng has
24 complied. They feel confident they can assure his continued
25 compliance.

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1 Your Honor, Mr. Ng has understood that today could be
2 a day when he would be sentenced to a sentence of perhaps 72
3 months, which is what the probation department recommended, or
4 perhaps substantially more than that, which is what the
5 government sought. And he also understood, as the government
6 had informed us long ago, that they were going to seek his
7 immediate remand today, and he's here. That ought to be enough
8 to demonstrate to the Court that he has no intention to attempt
9 to flee and that, even if he did, the conditions that the Court
10 has set very carefully, which are very stringent, are more than
11 adequate to assure his appearance.

12 And unless the Court has questions about that, I think
13 that really the risk of flight should be an easy issue for the
14 Court to resolve in our favor.

15 THE COURT: OK. But would you agree with me that
16 before today, everything was a possibility. It's now assured
17 that Mr. Ng is facing jail time. Putting aside whether it
18 tips, entirely tips, the balance, that actually militates, that
19 actually cuts against, in other words, that's another factor
20 that I need to weigh in addition to what I've weighed before,
21 which I did for purposes of bail. That is a change in the
22 circumstances here. It was a possibility; it's a reality now.
23 Obviously, not only do people have hope, but, obviously, there
24 were a lot of things that militated towards that hope,
25 including the probation department granting a substantial

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1 variance.

2 The government -- how often do you see that, right,
3 where there's a variance that the government thinks is
4 appropriate? So the issue is what he's now facing, it's a
5 reality and not a possibility. So doesn't that factor weigh on
6 the side of flight?

7 MR. GENSER: Your Honor --

8 THE COURT: Or possibility of flight, I should say.

9 MR. GENSER: I think it certainly weighs, but I think
10 the question is how much weight? And I think, number one, yes,
11 there was hope that he would get a sentence of time served, but
12 Mr. Ng understood that it was a hope and that the greater, much
13 greater, likelihood was that there would be a jail sentence
14 perhaps as high as 72 months or higher. And Mr. Ng is resigned
15 and -- Mr. Ng stood up and I think he made a very moving and
16 important statement to the Court that the Court can also
17 consider and should consider. I think it's evident that Mr. Ng
18 has resigned himself to accepting whatever the Court has
19 imposed and that he has to serve, not from a legal perspective,
20 we intend to challenge it, but that he's not going to try and
21 deal with the situation by essentially committing a crime and
22 somehow trying to flee out of his apartment, and that's
23 evident. Nothing about the sentence that was imposed is going
24 to create such an incentive to flee that it materially changes
25 the calculation or the risk of flight.

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1 I think the other thing that we can point to are the
2 conditions. I think the government during their comments noted
3 that the confinement to the apartment is doing what it was
4 intended to do, and it's going to continue to do what it was
5 intended to do. There's no way he could escape if he wanted to
6 escape. There's no realistic possibility of it. And there's
7 no reason to think that he has any intention to make any effort
8 to do that.

9 I think, your Honor, you have a two-year track record,
10 six months of which have been after the conviction when the
11 guidelines were 25 years. I don't know if I did the math
12 right, but something in that range, and all before the
13 probation report came out, before we knew there was going to be
14 the potential of at least an agreement from probation and then
15 potentially from the government that there should be some
16 variance. You know, the risk was something much higher than
17 that based on the guidelines.

18 So for all those reasons, I think your Honor has ample
19 evidence to conclude that Mr. Ng is not a flight risk under the
20 conditions that your Honor has set.

21 THE COURT: OK. Thank you.

22 Ms. Murphy.

23 MS. MURPHY: Thank you, your Honor.

24 If I could start with just the standard that we're
25 dealing with here in terms of the substantial question. The

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1 question for the Court is whether our appeal will present a
2 substantial question of law or fact that's likely to result in
3 reversal or a new trial. The Second Circuit has made clear
4 that doesn't mean we have to demonstrate to you we're likely to
5 prevail. Likely refers to if we prevail on our substantial
6 question, are we likely to obtain the relief of reversal or new
7 trial? The substantial question test asks only whether you
8 have a close question, one in which the Second Circuit very
9 well could come out the other way.

10 Now, this is a prosecution that's really
11 extraordinarily unusual in several respects. We have a foreign
12 national accused of bribing foreign officials in their capacity
13 as U.N. ambassadors. So, unsurprisingly, we have some really
14 novel legal issues here that haven't come up in other cases
15 before in the Second Circuit. I know your Honor is familiar
16 with some of the legal issues here. They've been briefed and
17 argued in the pretrial proceedings, so I won't belabor them to
18 too much detail, but if I could just go through the two -- two
19 of the principal ones.

20 THE COURT: Give me one moment, Ms. Murphy.

21 Sorry about that. Go ahead.

22 MS. MURPHY: No problem.

23 So the first substantial question on appeal is whether
24 the United Nations --

25 (Pause)

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1 THE COURT: Go ahead.

2 MS. MURPHY: No problem. The first substantial
3 question is whether the United Nations qualifies as an
4 organization for purposes of Section 666. I'm sure the
5 government will tell you that the Second Circuit already
6 resolved this question in the *Bahel* case, but that case just
7 didn't concern the meaning of the term "organization" under the
8 statute. And there's strong arguments that the textual matter,
9 as a legislative history matter, in terms of canons of
10 interpretation that organization really means private
11 organization in this statute, not public.

12 THE COURT: Let me ask is this: Because there are six
13 counts here --

14 MS. MURPHY: Sure.

15 THE COURT: -- at least by my estimation, the proof
16 that would be required for any of the six counts is essentially
17 the same. In other words, is there case law relating to --
18 would you have to run the table? In other words, it's
19 conceivable that the Second Circuit might agree with you about
20 whether it's 666, or whatever, but not necessarily on all of
21 the other counts, one or more of the other counts. Does that
22 result in a new trial?

23 MS. MURPHY: Well, so we believe that -- the two
24 principal issues that I would bring up today are 666 and the
25 *McDonnell* official acts issue. And I think that if we were to

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1 prevail on both of those issues, it would impact every count in
2 the case, because if the court -- if the Second Circuit were to
3 conclude that there was an official acts problem with both the
4 FCPA and the 666 charges, that would impact every count in the
5 case because the first four counts depend on both -- on one or
6 both of 666 and the FCPA. And then Counts Five and Six, the
7 jury was instructed that they could rely on 666, the FCPA, or
8 the foreign law allegations.

9 THE COURT: What about the foreign law, though? How
10 does *McDonnell* implicate the foreign law determination for
11 purposes of, I think it's, money laundering?

12 MS. MURPHY: Sure. The problem, the reason we'd be
13 likely to get a new trial on that is because the jury wasn't
14 asked which theory it relied upon for its money laundering
15 convictions. Under the Second Circuit and clear Supreme Court
16 case law, if you can't tell which theory the jury relied on
17 that, if they were instructed on multiple theories and you
18 can't tell which one it is, then you have to have a new trial.
19 And I don't really see how, on this record, you could argue
20 that anybody knows to a certainty that the jury relied on the
21 foreign law charges instead of these two substantive charges
22 where it had already found convictions.

23 THE COURT: Was there a request for a verdict sheet
24 with regard to that? Was there a request at trial? I don't
25 remember there being one, not that that means that you're not

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1 correct on the law. I'm just wondering. I just don't
2 remember.

3 MS. MURPHY: I have to say I don't know offhand
4 whether there was a request to do it separately, but it does
5 happen quite often that you don't have a request to separate it
6 out, and the relief when you have a situation where the jury
7 got separate theories and you can't tell which one they relied
8 on is it has to be a new trial.

9 THE COURT: All right. I'm sorry I interrupted you.

10 MS. MURPHY: Sure. No problem.

11 In terms of 666, we think there's strong arguments
12 there that it's a private organization. I think there's a
13 textual argument on that, and the Second Circuit didn't have to
14 confront that argument in *Bahel* because it was focused on a
15 different part of the text. Here, we have a statute that
16 separately applies to organizations and government agencies.
17 You wouldn't really need that separate piece if organizations
18 were really such a broad term that it encompassed everything.
19 You have a statute that says on its face what kind of
20 governmental entities it was to apply to, and they're all
21 notably domestic: state, local, and tribal. They don't include
22 foreign governments and they don't include international
23 governments, which actually is a notable contrast to the FCPA
24 which actually specifically defines a foreign official to
25 include a public international organization.

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1 So on the face of the statute there are indications
2 that it wasn't intended to reach public quasi-sovereign
3 international organizations like the United Nations, and the
4 legislative history of the statute actually says that it was
5 supposed to reach private organizations and state and local
6 government agencies.

7 So particularly when you take all of that in
8 combination with the canon of interpretation that says statutes
9 shouldn't be read to create unreasonable interference with the
10 sovereignty of foreign nations, which particularly as to 666
11 this would since 666 applies to both the payor and the
12 recipient, we believe it's at least a close question on which
13 the Second Circuit could very well come out the other way on
14 whether the 666 charges belonged in this case at all, which
15 would impact several of the counts in the case.

16 THE COURT: OK.

17 MS. MURPHY: We also believe there are substantial
18 questions here about the application of *McDonnell* and the
19 official acts doctrine that it sets forth as to both of the
20 statutes in this case. We have two statutes that were
21 patterned after Section 201, which is the very statute that the
22 Supreme Court was interpreting in the *McDonnell* case. And we
23 have two statutes that raise all the same constitutional
24 concerns as Section 201 and kind of the entire array of federal
25 bribery and corruption statutes because you have serious

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1 vagueness concerns in terms of fair notice and arbitrary
2 enforcement if these statutes are read exceptionally broadly.
3 You have First Amendment concerns if they're read exceptionally
4 broadly, and you can have both interference with state
5 sovereignty as to 666 and interference with foreign sovereignty
6 as to both statutes in reading them in this manner.

7 Now, obviously, the text of these statutes is not
8 identical to Section 201, and in particular, the FCPA does have
9 that broader language that refers to securing an improper
10 advantage. But, if anything, the sheer breadth of that
11 language, just read in isolation, kind of makes the
12 constitutional terms all the stronger.

13 THE COURT: But here, right, at least there was an
14 attempt to address *McDonnell* in the jury charge and the jury
15 instructions. Why isn't that sufficient?

16 MS. MURPHY: Sure.

17 THE COURT: So not unlike, again, different sort of
18 statutes, but not unlike the trial which was just recently
19 resolved, the Silver trial, or the Skelos trial which is going
20 to come up, which the Second Circuit reversed and set a new
21 trial, they didn't say you're out of the box. In other words,
22 they basically said you can go for a new trial.

23 So why wouldn't the jury instructions be enough here
24 with regard to these statutes that we're considering?

25 MS. MURPHY: So, first, there wasn't an official acts

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1 instruction on the FCPA charges at all, so that's an
2 independent problem.

3 As to 666, there was an instruction and we appreciate
4 that your Honor gave an instruction, but we don't believe that
5 the instruction that was given was sufficient to do what
6 *McDonnell* needs a jury to do, which is understand, really, the
7 distinction between actions taken in official capacity and
8 actions that qualify as the kind of official acts *McDonnell* had
9 in question.

10 The couple things -- one of them, these are ways in
11 which the instruction differentiated from the one that we had
12 requested. I mean, in one respect, we requested instructions
13 that would have clearly delineated what we see as the two
14 distinct requirements of *McDonnell*. The first is that you need
15 a specific and focused matter, something that is or could be
16 pending before the, here, United Nations; and the second would
17 then be that you need the official actor decision on that
18 specific matter. The instruction the jury got instead kind of
19 blended the two concepts together, and basically ended up
20 saying what you need is something that's specific and focused
21 on a matter. I think that doesn't really delineate those two
22 prongs in the way that *McDonnell* requires.

23 The other thing the instruction didn't do, and I think
24 if you look back at *McDonnell* and what the court was talking
25 about and was concerned there with, is there is a notion that

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1 the instructions have to be tailored to the things that are
2 being argued in the particular case. Here, our instruction
3 would have told the jury that meeting with someone,
4 participating in the meeting is not an official act, which is
5 really an important distinction in this case given that the
6 government repeatedly argued and invited the jury to conclude
7 that this trip to Macau was an official act just because it was
8 taken in official capacity. We don't believe that that's the
9 kind of official act that qualifies under *McDonnell*. And the
10 instruction, by not specifically telling the jury that, didn't
11 really tailor to the facts of this case what was and wasn't an
12 official act.

13 Here, I think it's compounded by the fact that the
14 government did repeatedly -- basically tried this case for
15 official acts. We think at least three of those are not
16 official acts within the meaning of *McDonnell*. So you have a
17 real problem with the government really inviting the jury
18 explicitly to treat things as official acts that are not
19 official acts and that the instruction doesn't make
20 sufficiently clear to the jury are not official agents.

21 So I think with all of that, I don't mean to suggest
22 that we don't also have an argument about the sufficiency of
23 the evidence and other arguments in the case, but given that
24 particular problem with this issue, which is one that the
25 Second Circuit hasn't confronted in the FCPA context, this is a

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1 substantial question on which the Second Circuit clearly could
2 come out in our favor. And if they did, given that the
3 official acts aspects of the case impacts both 666 and the FCPA
4 charges, which themselves impact every count in the case, we'd
5 be likely to obtain a new trial if we prevailed on these
6 arguments.

7 THE COURT: OK. Thank you.

8 For the government.

9 MR. ZOLKIND: Thank you, your Honor.

10 Your Honor, it has been nearly a year since the
11 defendant was convicted by a unanimous jury of serious
12 corruption and money laundering crimes, crimes that dated back
13 to at least 2010 and crimes which the Court has now determined
14 warrant a significant term of imprisonment.

15 Your Honor, the defendant faces at this point a much
16 steeper burden in terms of his argument to be kept out on bail
17 than he faced at any previous point in this case, and it cannot
18 meet that burden. He can't meet either prong of it. As I will
19 discuss, the defendant should be detained at this point.

20 Your Honor, first, with respect to the standard, I
21 think, just to be clear, the defendant has the burden of
22 showing both by clear and convincing evidence that he is not
23 likely to flee and, in addition, that there are substantial
24 issues that, if resolved in his favor on appeal, are likely to
25 lead to a reversal of his conviction or a new trial.

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1 I'll address that in a moment, but I think, to get
2 right to the heart of one of the Court's questions, the
3 government's view is that he does need to sweep the deck, so to
4 speak. He needs to win on every single count, essentially, in
5 order to get a new trial or reversal because the Court imposed
6 the same term of imprisonment concurrently as to each count.

7 Let me address the risk of flight first. Just
8 briefly, we've argued this in front of the Court many times,
9 but the Court has previously found repeatedly that the
10 defendant does pose a significant risk of flight. I think it's
11 important just to recall that the Court has made that finding
12 and for good reason, and the Court has imposed truly
13 extraordinary bail conditions to address that risk of flight,
14 but the risk of flight has always been there. The defendant
15 now knows to a certainty that he is facing a serious term of
16 imprisonment, 48 months of imprisonment. And he's argued
17 repeatedly, he's argued today, that jail is going to be very
18 difficult for him. He's repeatedly let the Court know the
19 extent to which he is fearful of going to jail in this country.

20 So his incentive to flee, which has always been there,
21 is greater now than it has ever been before, and the Court
22 alluded to that. I think there's really no dispute about that,
23 no serious dispute, that the incentive has gotten much greater
24 in light of today's sentencing.

25 In prior applications for bail, the defense has argued

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1 that the defendant wasn't motivated to flee because he believed
2 that he'd be acquitted at trial, and then after he was
3 convicted, the argument was that he believed strongly in his
4 arguments for a non-incarceratory sentence. Those arguments
5 don't apply at this point.

6 He has new motivations. We don't know whether there's
7 ever been an attempt to flee before. We have no indication
8 that there is, but that's not to say that in light of the
9 change of circumstances, there wouldn't be a new motivation.
10 So I don't think that the past is necessarily a guide in light
11 of the changed circumstances.

12 So then, obviously, he has an argument about his
13 belief in his likelihood of success on appeal. Our view is
14 that the likelihood of success on appeal is very low. And let
15 me turn to that now.

16 So, again, and the Court pointed this out, it's
17 critical to keep in mind that this is not a case in which the
18 defendant was convicted of just Section 666 and a conspiracy to
19 violate 666, where if the defense can persuade the appeals
20 court that there was a problem with the 666 counts, the whole
21 thing is getting reversed. Here, the defendant's convictions
22 stands on multiple, independent different pegs. He was
23 convicted not just of 666 but also of two different FCPA
24 substantive counts and money laundering counts which were
25 predicated both on the 666, the FCPA, and Antiquan and

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1 Dominican law, which have their own unique elements.

2 So to win, to get his convictions reversed or get a
3 new trial, the defendant has to do more than overturn his
4 Section 666 conviction, which we don't think there's a
5 likelihood of that happening in any event; he has to do that
6 for each of those counts.

7 Let me turn to the specific arguments that were just
8 raised. So, first of all, the argument with respect to whether
9 the United Nations is an organization. The first thing to say
10 about that is that argument applies only to Section 666. So
11 even if that argument were adopted by the circuit, that would
12 have no bearing whatsoever on his FCPA convictions, on his
13 conspiracy conviction. And I should note there was a special
14 verdict form for the conspiracy charge, and so the jury
15 indicated that that conviction was predicated on each of the
16 underlying counts. So that's the first thing to say about --
17 regardless of what the circuit says about whether or not the
18 U.N. is an organization, that only impacts Section 666.

19 On the merits of that argument, as the Court knows,
20 this was the subject of extensive briefing in the motion to
21 dismiss. The Court read all the precedents and arguments that
22 the defense advanced and rejected that argument. We think it
23 did so for exactly the right reasons, most notably because the
24 Second Circuit has already addressed this issue in the *Bahel*
25 case. So I think another panel of the circuit would be very

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1 hard pressed to reevaluate that issue in light of *Bahel*. It
2 would really require the circuit to sit *en banc*. I think
3 that's not at all likely to happen.

4 With respect to the argument about whether Congress
5 intended Section 666 to apply to an organization like the
6 United Nations, cases again and again have talked about the
7 purpose of Section 666, which is to safeguard federal money.
8 The purpose of Section 666 is to ensure that federal money that
9 is going to organizations is not squandered through corruption.
10 The federal government spends, as the Court knows, hundreds of
11 millions of dollars every single year on the United Nations.
12 So using that statute to enable the federal government to
13 enforce -- to ensure that U.S. money is not going to fund an
14 organization that is afflicted with bribery and corruption is
15 exactly in line with what Congress intended Section 666 to be
16 about.

17 I don't think the fact that it applies to an
18 organization like the U.N. but not to foreign governments is at
19 all strange. There is the FCPA which applies outside the
20 United States to foreign officials, and there's Section 666
21 that applies to state and local governments and to federally
22 funded organizations. I'm not at all conceding that Section
23 666 wouldn't have some potential application outside the United
24 States. That wasn't presented in this case. Here, the U.N. is
25 headquartered right here in New York. This was not an

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1 extraterritorial application of Section 666, and they're not
2 arguing that; that wasn't the argument that was just raised.

3 So for all those reasons, I don't think that is
4 remotely a substantial issue that's likely to result in a
5 reversal or a new trial.

6 With respect to the second and last issue that the
7 defense raised, *McDonnell*, there's several reasons why
8 *McDonnell* does not at all raise an issue that's likely to lead
9 to a reversal or new trial.

10 Number 1, as the Court again alluded to, the Court
11 instructed the jury on *McDonnell* with respect to Section 666,
12 and that wasn't because the government necessarily concedes
13 that the Court had to do so, but we requested that instruction
14 in an abundance of caution. And, in fact, the Court gave, I
15 think, a broader, more robust instruction than the government
16 had even proposed. So I think the Court did, in fact, adopt
17 much of what the defense was requesting with respect to a
18 *McDonnell* instruction. So with respect to 666, they were
19 instructed on *McDonnell*.

20 With respect to the FCPA, there is no court that has
21 found that *McDonnell* applies to the FCPA. So for the defense
22 to argue that that is a substantial issue that's likely to lead
23 to reversal or a new trial, what they're saying is that this is
24 going to be the first case that leads to a court deciding that
25 *McDonnell* applies to the FCPA. There are very good reasons why

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1 the Court, this Court, addressed that issue and held to the
2 contrary. And specifically, it's because, among other things,
3 the FCPA is explicitly much broader than Section 201 or Section
4 666, and it applies, by its own terms, to corrupt payments that
5 are designed to obtain an unfair business advantage. There's
6 no way to read that language as requiring proof of an official
7 act.

8 So that's the FCPA. And then, of course, there's even
9 less reason to think that *McDonnell* would apply to Antiguan or
10 Dominican law.

11 Just another point that gets, I think, less to the
12 sort of legal issue and more to a factual sufficiency,
13 evidentiary sufficiency argument that was alluded to by the
14 defense. They claim that the government proved or attempted to
15 prove four official acts. I understand why they're making that
16 argument and why they articulated it that way to the circuit.
17 It's easier to point at the four actions that the government
18 talked about, but the government did not in its pretrial
19 briefing or at trial ever confine itself to those four specific
20 acts. We focused on those four acts and argued that they were
21 important evidence of the scheme and of the crime, but the
22 official act that the government has always been most focused
23 on, both in its legal arguments to the Court and in its
24 arguments to the jury, was the defendant's agreement with
25 Ambassador Ashe and Ambassador Lorenzo to establish a formal

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1 U.N. center in Macau. That was the subject of the agreement;
2 that was the official act, at the end of the day, that was the
3 subject of the corrupt agreement.

4 So whether or not a particular U.N. document or the
5 revision to that U.N. document was an official act, regardless
6 of whether a particular contract was an official act, and
7 certainly regardless of whether a trip to Macau was an official
8 act, the government's going to argue about particular official
9 acts, but even if the circuit doesn't agree, there's really no
10 way to dispute that an agreement to establish an official U.N.
11 center in Macau was an agreement to obtain official action.
12 That was the subject. And so, again, I don't think arguments
13 about the four actions that did take place before the
14 defendant's plan was disrupted and he was arrested at all raise
15 a substantial issue that could potentially lead to a reversal
16 or a new trial, let alone likely to do so.

17 Unless the Court has any questions, I'll sit down.

18 THE COURT: OK. Thank you.

19 Mr. Genser.

20 MR. GENSER: Yes, if I can just respond a little bit
21 on risk of flight.

22 THE COURT: Yes.

23 MR. GENSER: Your Honor, at every point when there's
24 been a bail determination, the government has stood up and told
25 the Court the parade of horrors and the enormous incentives

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1 that Mr. Ng has to flee and how the conditions, the very strict
2 conditions that the Court has set, aren't going to be
3 sufficient. Every time the government's been wrong, and
4 they're wrong again.

5 I want to also point out that earlier the Court asked,
6 well, does the certainty of the sentence that the Court has
7 imposed make the risk of flight more acute? And I think I
8 agree that it could in some respects, but in another respect,
9 it doesn't. It's at least a wash, or maybe it even reduces the
10 incentive to flee because you're taking the uncertainty, which
11 includes a very, very high end range of potentially more than
12 25 years in jail that the defendant faced, that the government
13 argued created an enormous incentive to flee, and you are
14 replacing that with the certainty of, relative to that level, a
15 much more moderate amount.

16 So from that perspective, in some ways it actually
17 reduces the incentive to flee because the real concern is that
18 Mr. Ng was going to spend the rest of his life in jail, and
19 we're very grateful that, based upon the sentence that your
20 Honor imposed, he's likely not to spend the rest of his life in
21 jail. So I would just point that out as well. I don't think
22 that the risk of flight is a serious issue.

23 The other point I want to make is that the strength of
24 the appellate prong of this discussion and the faith that
25 Mr. Ng has in those arguments and in the appellate team that

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1 he's assembled, very able team, including Ms. Murphy and also
2 Paul Clement, former Solicitor General of the United States,
3 lots of appellate experience.

4 THE COURT: Some would say able is probably putting it
5 mildly.

6 MR. GENSER: I'm trying to be modest about my partner
7 who I think is terrific.

8 But I think the point is, your Honor, that Mr. Ng now
9 has something else to hope for, something that he believes in,
10 and he believes in his chances on appeal as Ms. Murphy
11 outlined. And he's committed to that. He's committed to
12 pursuing that, and I think that factors in and reflects back on
13 the question of risk of flight.

14 So I think when you considered all that together,
15 there's no material increased incentive. And to the extent
16 there was, your Honor's seen he has no -- he's expressed his
17 feelings about the case, and your Honor can tell he's resigned
18 to seeing this through, complying with the Court's rulings.
19 And the whole concept of risk of flight is not what should hold
20 up granting bail pending appeal.

21 Thank you.

22 THE COURT: OK. Thank you.

23 Ms. Murphy?

24 MS. MURPHY: So first on 666, we acknowledge 666 is
25 not going to knock out every charge in this case, but our

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1 argument on 666 is very important because it does matter for
2 several of the counts in this case. So if the Second Circuit
3 agrees with us that it shouldn't have been in this case, that
4 will be critical to conspiracy, to 666, and also to the money
5 laundering charges.

6 As for the *Bahel* decision, the Court just did not
7 address the question of organization there. The notion that
8 the court would need to go *en banc* to answer a question that
9 *Bahel* just wasn't confronted with and it doesn't address at all
10 is simply not correct. The court can't kind of *sub silentio*
11 have interpreted statutory language that nobody put at issue in
12 the *Bahel* case. And given that we believe there's textual
13 arguments here about reading organization narrowly and not just
14 arguments generally about how to read statutes as a general
15 matter, this is just clearly an open question on which *Bahel* is
16 relevant but is not conclusive.

17 The government also notes that applying 666 to the
18 United Nations would achieve the government's interests. Well,
19 that can be said of applying any number of federal criminal
20 statutes in kind of what is essentially a sort of
21 extraterritorial context that involves foreign nationals and
22 foreign officials. That's precisely why there's a canon of
23 interpretation that the courts are not supposed to read
24 statutes to create undue interference with foreign nations
25 unless the statute makes clear that that was Congress' intent.

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1 And this statute just does not make that clear at all. I think
2 it is notable that in comparing that to the FCPA, you can see
3 in the FCPA when Congress wants to reach a foreign
4 international organization, it knows how to do so and says so
5 on the face of the statute.

6 If I could just make a couple quick points about
7 *McDonnell*. The government notes that the Second Circuit would
8 be the first court to hold that *McDonnell* applies to the FCPA.
9 They'd be the first court to rule on that issue that we're
10 aware of. We're talking about a two-year-old decision and a
11 statute on which cases are rarely brought to trial and there
12 are very few appeals. While there are a few cases that have
13 mentioned the issue, we're not aware of any court that has
14 actually confronted the question squarely and resolved the
15 question of whether the FCPA is impacted by the *McDonnell*
16 decision. That alone cuts in favor of treating that as a
17 substantial question since the Second Circuit has also said
18 part of the consideration in the substantial question analysis
19 is whether you're dealing with a novel question, which that
20 question really is here.

21 The one other point that I would make on *McDonnell* is
22 while the government has an argument that maybe there is one
23 official act here, and I don't mean to concede that there is,
24 but that doesn't really get them all the way home since we are
25 entitled to bail if we're likely to get a new trial. And I

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1 don't think there's any dispute, I don't even hear the
2 government disputing that they relied on many official acts
3 here, four in particular and perhaps some others, and we
4 believe that they invited the jury to convict on things that
5 they classified as official acts that we believe, as a matter
6 of law, are not official acts.

7 So absent an instruction that made crystal clear to
8 the jury that they could not do that, we believe we have a
9 substantial question about whether the FCPA charges can stand
10 and the 666 charges, since both of them rely on the official
11 acts. And as I noted at the beginning, without those two
12 pieces, there has to be a new trial.

13 THE COURT: OK. Thank you.

14 I've considered the arguments of the parties, and I
15 looked and, as counsel knows, I have given a substantial amount
16 of time to the issue of bail here. I do think that the
17 sentence, certainty of the sentence of 48 months is something
18 that does weigh, tilt, on balance, because I think if it wasn't
19 clear from the amount of time I spent on it that it was a very
20 close call for me in making the determination that bail --
21 there could be conditions that would satisfy that. I think, on
22 balance now, that I find that the defense has not met its
23 burden with regard to clear and convincing evidence that there
24 isn't a risk of flight here.

25 Again, these are close calls. And I would say that

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1 when I made the decision with regard to granting bail, there
2 were arguments -- I don't know whether they were explicitly
3 articulated here. I think they may have been -- that the
4 methodology that I was using, in other words, the fact that
5 Mr. Ng was a person of means and could actually accomplish a
6 lot of the things that were requested in the bail package
7 itself would be something that wouldn't be -- again, I think it
8 is appropriately considered under the Bail Reform Act; some of
9 my colleagues have disagreed about that. That's the only point
10 I would make on that.

11 Now, with regard to the issue that the appeal is going
12 to raise substantial questions of law or fact likely to result
13 in either reversal or new trial and otherwise, I think, as I
14 mentioned and as my questions may have indicated, there are six
15 counts here. With regard to the *McDonnell* issue, as I was at
16 the time, I was convinced that the jury instruction that I
17 utilized was sufficient to address the concerns relating to
18 that.

19 With regard to the 666, while I do agree that *Bahel*
20 isn't on point, and I think I've discussed this in the past, it
21 is a reference point for me both in terms of 666 and statutes
22 like 666, but also with regard to, as I mentioned earlier in
23 the sentencing, with regard to the considerations relating to
24 the application, and this is a guideline issue, of 2C1.1 to
25 organizations like the United Nations.

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1 So I think, everything considered with regard to that,
2 I find that there isn't clear and convincing evidence that
3 there's a likelihood to be reversal and a new trial here.

4 Putting that aside, and I understand that the FCPA,
5 that no one has addressed the issue of the FCPA and how that
6 relates to it, in other words, the defense doesn't have in its
7 quiver of arguments that there are cases that basically
8 indicate that, in fact -- that would support the argument that
9 if there's clear and convincing evidence, that it should be
10 applied. Again, in connection with the decision with regard to
11 how to construct the jury charge, I think we spent, I think,
12 the better part of a day, if not more, on the jury charge
13 issues. I'm not saying that it's necessarily the amount of
14 time we spent on it, but there was a substantial amount of time
15 I spent both discussing with the parties the FCPA and the
16 implications of *McDonnell* as well as thinking about it on my
17 own.

18 Again, I think, on balance, I don't find that there's
19 clear and convincing evidence that there's likely to be a
20 reversal there and a new trial on that.

21 I understand the argument with regard to the money
22 laundering counts, obviously, as it relates to the relationship
23 between the unlawful activity alleged, both 666 and otherwise,
24 but I don't see that there is a likelihood, again, with regard
25 to the bribery -- excuse me, the money laundering charge as it

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1 relates to violation of foreign law that there is, again, clear
2 and convincing evidence that that count will be reversed
3 because, although I recognize there is some connection, I don't
4 believe that it is such that that count will be reversed.

5 Just more globally, I think I may have alluded to this
6 in my questioning, the proof, at least in my mind, the proof
7 that the government would have put forward with regard to all
8 of the counts, I think, would be, if not identical,
9 substantially -- not materially different with regard to any of
10 the six counts in light of what the other -- in light of the
11 underlying facts here and the charges.

12 So, on that basis, I would deny defendant bail pending
13 appeal.

14 Is there anything else that we need to deal with?

15 MR. ZOLKIND: Not from the government, your Honor.

16 THE COURT: All right. From the defense?

17 MR. GENSER: No, your Honor.

18 THE COURT: All right. Thank you very much.

19 It was a very good argument, and we'll stand
20 adjourned.

21 (Adjourned)